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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

July 2014

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month **Saturn goes direct while Uranus retrogrades**. The changes of direction of the planets have much to do with how we manifest them. While they are retrograde we tend to internalize the energy and explore it within. Once the planet goes direct we then express that new knowledge or concept to the outside world. This is of course an oversimplification, but it works well to analyze the period we are in.

The direct motion of Saturn implies that we are entering a time when stabilizing and securing the reality about all issues is most important. The change of motion of Saturn always has a strong effect on business and financial matters. Saturn rules the banks, housing, and the basic stability of the currencies. This doesn't mean that these areas will all improve once it goes direct. Only that any problems that do exist will no longer be hidden. In fact, as Saturn goes direct some things that have been kept under wraps may be exposed to the determent of the issue. Sometimes the reversal of Saturn is the top or the bottom of the markets. But the stocks don't always change direction, only the reality behind the trading must change. We may finally see the onset of inflation, a rise in interest rates, or other seemingly innocuous actions that will have a long-term and powerful effect on our economy and our lives.

The retrograde motion of Uranus shows that innovation and unusual ideas need to wait their turn. This is not the time to unveil a new electronic product or for an IPO of an internet company. It's the time to secure the products that already exist and make them strong and better. When Saturn and Uranus are in conjunct and change direction simultaneously is when the most remarkable innovations are invented or perfected. The combination of stability and inspiration offers boundless opportunities. But when they are in opposition we need to breathe with the transits, so to speak. Now you shore up the changes and innovations you created over the past six months. Make sure they are secure and able to handle the challenges ahead. Put all new things on a back burner for the moment. You can work on them and look them over in your free time. In fact, you need to begin the process of sketching out your next moves many months in advance. This is a time to outline a new book while completing one you started already. But put most of your attention towards completing those things you've already begun. Then when Uranus and Saturn both reverse direction, you will find that if you've handled this energy properly you have completed one project and are ready to get to the next level with the other.

Civil war in Iraq, annexation of Crimea, Syria going to the devil, and Eric Cantor loses to a Tea Party extremist. What the hell is going on? It's still the Grand Cross. Mars has been in retrograde for many months.

While that was going on, wars were limited and a lot of pent up anger has been suppressed. Now that Mars has turned around and is heading back to the 13 degrees of the Grand Cross, many issues will come out of the shadows that were started in April and we will get to a new level of understanding. The increased violence is to be expected, and will not easily be pushed back. We are more susceptible to terrorist attacks than we have been in a long time. That is ultimately the legacy of the Grand Cross.

Just because the Grand Cross has completed doesn't mean that the events, ideals, and changes that began as that aspect approached will now disappear. Remember, America's Sun is at 13 degrees Cancer, exactly the degree of that Grand Cross. Although we didn't see a terrorist attack precisely around that time, the events that were started then will continue to influence our society for some time. That includes the situations in Ukraine, and Iraq. With the Middle East falling even more into disarray, we can certainly expect to see some potentially horrific occurrences in the coming months.

With Mars now going direct and heading towards Scorpio, and Jupiter about to experience a surge in willpower as it enters Leo, we can expect to see escalation in those regions. The Middle East in particular looks very much like a result of Mars (war), Pluto (vengeance), Uranus (explosiveness), and Jupiter (proliferation).

I've been worried about terrorist attacks on our soil since that aspect began to culminate. Just because we weren't hit in April doesn't mean a plan wasn't hatched at that time that will be completed down the line. I'm concerned that we will see some terrorist activity on our own soil over the next 6-12 months. Iraq and Syria have become a terrorist breeding ground for anyone with a grudge. Because we are a 13 degree Cancer county and the Grand Cross was exactly at that degree, our next terrorist will most likely be home-grown.

My fear is that a society already on edge and restricted in travel and other personal freedoms could be easily pushed into the realm of paranoia at the slightest provocation. It would only take one powerful attack to once again alter our reality and head us back to 1984.

Israel was born May 14th 1948. Most astrology websites give the time as 4:00 PM Tel Aviv. This gives Israel a 23 degree Libra ascendant. If that time is accurate, we should see the effects of what this Grand Cross has created on Israel when the four Grand Cross planets hit that 23 degree cardinal point. The first one to get there was Jupiter in mid-June, just about the time Iraq blew up. Mars will hit that degree July 11th – 14th. Uranus won't get there until late May 2016 for its first pass. Pluto won't get there until April 2019.

The main aspect we are heading toward now is Saturn square Neptune which we will start to feel in March 2015 when this square comes within a few degrees of completion. It will be in orb November-December 2015, June 2016, and September 2016. Saturn and Neptune were in opposition as the housing market (ruled by Saturn) crumbled in 2006-7. The banks (ruled by Saturn) were audited shortly after that when Saturn entered Virgo (ruler of the auditor) and almost collapsed. Then the stock market crumbled like the house of cards it was.

I don't expect a complete collapse like we saw in 2008. We have put much effort into shoring up the foundation and fixing some of the problems that led to that mess. But we are still on the edge of insolvency, and the world is changing rapidly and in surprising ways. Housing isn't recovering from the recession the way it historically does. It's weak and much of the rise in prices is due to speculative buying by hedge funds. Currencies are shaky and manipulated on a worldwide basis. The banks aren't as secure as we would wish.

And with new "innovations" like *Bitcoins* that may turn out to be a real challenge to the banking monopoly, or a gigantic scam, the gauntlet has been thrown down and the future of your money is in play. Either way the *Bitcoin* situation plays out, it's not in my opinion going to help anyone but the very rich. Without a bank, country, or P.T.A. backing its solvency, it looks very much to me like a game of Stealing the old man's Bundle. You can move billions of dollars in *Bitcoins* with no real trail. If it becomes an accepted way of doing business it will probably shake up faith in banks and currencies, which will allow those who trade it to make a fortune. If it's a scam and a pyramid, those who are in first and out first will also make a fortune. The little guy will get screwed no matter what.

What *Bitcoin* is saying is: "No currency is based on reality anymore. The FEDS produce more and more money electronically with no gold or other commodity backing it. Why can't we?" I hate to admit it, but they're right. Thank about it.

When I add all of this up and see the approaching Saturn-Neptune square I have to wonder what illusions will be exposed this time, and what can we as individuals do to protect our fragile future? The years 2016-17 show the most susceptibility to a serious financial downturn since our last collapse. We live in a world of financial bubbles, and as long as we do we can expect the unexpected and hope the dam holds with the coming storm.

Enjoy the summer. It's the greatest gift this slightly tilted but totally cockeyed planet ever gave us.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Friday June 27^h at 4:08 A.M. EDT at 05 degrees Cancer 37 minutes. The sign of Cancer is all about families, memories, and our emotional attachment to the past. It has much to do with out connection to the collective through our personal experiences, rather than through world events. This is why there are so many Cancerian writers who reach us by bringing the big picture down to a smaller, personal level. This New Moon represents the beginning of a month of intimate encounters and internal conversations. The past will play a big role this month, and many of us will hear from people we have either lost touch with or have been too busy to contact. This is the time of summer for family get-togethers or spending time with old friends. The sign of Leo is more adept at romantic encounters, so plan this month for old friends and family, and August for that exciting trip to Montauk with your new flame.

THE SUN TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday June 29th at 3:23 A.M. EDT this subtle transit will complete. Because it comes along so early in the morning, its influence will most likely go by without much fanfare. But it will set the pace for Saturday night and Sunday morning. This is a creative and empathetic energy that will increase awareness of others' needs and stimulate the artist in us all. If you're working on a new song or painting you may want to take a nap in the afternoon and work through this aspect, if your schedule allows. Even though it isn't a very demanding energy, its effects will seep into our conversations and relationship for a few days.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Sunday June 29th at 3:31 P.M. EDT many social situations, but especially romantic ones, will be very confusing and misdirected. Don't believe everything you're told. Look for evidence to support it. Many people flirt under this influence without any intensions of following through. There is a spirituality associated with this square, if you can get to that level of understanding. Venus is very much about personal relationships and values, but Neptune is about the collective and the ethereal part of life. It's quite possible to have a meaningful encounter that transcends the material plane. But most of us are too caught up in the day-to-day to allow the detachment necessary to take full advantage of Neptune transits. In any case, just make sure you clarify things, and don't make assumptions without proof to back them up.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Tuesday July 1st at 8:50 A.M. EDT Mercury finally turns around in Gemini. This has been a doozy of a retrograde, as I expected, especially once it reentered Gemini. Cell phones, headphones, computers, and all sorts of communications have been disrupted and troublesome. You need to use caution for a day or so as this energy reverses. Many problems occur during this transitional period, so pay attention to what's going on around you, and leave extra time for traveling. Although there is a period known as the "shadow phase" of a retrograde that many astrologers warn of, I find that once this planet goes direct it's okay to buy a new cell phone or other objects involving travel or communication. Just expect some more disruptions and confusion during the few days of this reversal of direction. Speak the truth and expect to hear the same. It's time to air out the hidden and unresolved issues.

THE SUN OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Friday July 4th at 4:00 A.M. EDT the Sun begins aspecting the four planets associated with the Grand Cross that completed this past April at 13 degrees Cardinal. All oppositions are worked out through other people, and this one will manifest as arguments, challenges, and power struggles. The Sun is almost at that13 degree point and we can expect some issues to come to a head this week. Between this opposition and the Sun square Uranus hitting a few days later, there will be a lot of force being projected and we must all use caution. Avoid any unnecessary disputes, and save your energy for the important issues that will come up. It's too easy to be dragged into a quagmire in your personal life that can last a long time, with no way out. There will probably be escalation in several troubled areas of the world this week, including Iraq and Syria.

THE SUN SQUARES URANUS:

On Tuesday July 8th at 12:23 P.M. EDT this powerful and erratic energy will be present. This is an intense and potentially dangerous transit that can be explosive in personal relationships or world events. This can be an accident waiting to happen, so continue to use caution. This is another of the planets involved in that grand Cross, and we will see forward motion in those issues that were brought out this past spring, including Ukraine and Iraq. We are heading towards the peak of this lunar cycle and it's important to complete some issues on both a personal level and in world events before the Full Moon. This square will prod many of us into action, which can be a good thing. But because it is a square, the energy will be forced and demanding and it's very easy to act impulsively and without fully thinking things through.

THE SUN TRINES SATURN:

Also on Tuesday July 8th at 8:29 P.M. EDT we will experience this stabilizing trine. Because Uranus and Saturn are currently in an inconjunct (150 degree angle) they will both be aspected concurrently by the transiting inner planets. The Sun will square Uranus (see above) while it is in trine to Saturn. This will allow us to make use of that square mentioned above without disrupting the status quo as much as that aspect normally would. If you can use these two energies together in a combined and compatible way, you can make the type of alterations Uranus demands while still standing on the concrete shoulders of Saturn. Just because two planets are in square doesn't make them ineffectual or necessarily negative, only more difficult to manage. With this trine active as well, that square will be easier to handle.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday July 12th at 7:25 A.M. EDT at 20 degrees Capricorn 03 minutes. This is the most restrictive of all the Full Moons. It isn't usually as physically explosive or disconcerting as some of the other lunar peaks, but it can manifest through our sense of values and belongings, so give it the respect all Full Moons demand. If this hits your chart you could have financial problems or be pushed into making a decision between two seemingly equal choices. What do you value most, and which of your choices are more important to you, and why? Your answers may set the pace of your life for the next six months until the Full Moon in Cancer on January 4th 2015. Take care of business and make sure your foundation is secured and can withstand any challenges or limitations.

MERCURY ENTERS CANCER:

On Sunday July 13th at 12:45 A.M. EDT Mercury finally leaves Gemini again and enters this water sign.

Thoughts, ideas, and speech will slow down and become more emotional until July 31st when it enters Leo. Mercury's placement in this sign will add to the already heavily Cancerian feelings. With the Sun, New Moon, and Jupiter in this sign as well, our thoughts will be even more family oriented. This is a good time to express your feelings to others and to reexamine past issues. If something has been left unresolved, this would be a good time to bring it out and finally put it to rest. Expect people to be more emotional and expressive than usual.

VENUS TRINES MARS:

Also on Sunday July 13th at 4:22 A.M. EDT this positive connection between the sexes will come along. This is a good time to explore relationships or to ask someone out for a date. There is a compatible feeling without any tension surrounding a get-together. Of course, if you have difficulties in social circumstance, this won't make them suddenly disappear. But this will help make most of us feel more at ease and accessible. This is a good day for a party or any type of social gathering between the sexes.

JUPITER ENTERS LEO:

On Wednesday July 16th at 6:30 A.M. EDT Jupiter enters this fixed fire sign. We give Jupiter exaltation in Cancer, and although its domain is in Sagittarius, it does feel at home in that watery sign. In Leo it has rulership through triplicity, and also does well in Leo. However, its focus will be on much different issues. For the past year we have been more concerned with expanding through family and friends. For many, the emotional responses have been exaggerated and feelings may have been blown out of proportion. Now we should see expansion in a number of different areas this coming year. This transit will energize a lot of things. Unfortunately that may also produce an increase in tensions around the world.

If used properly Jupiter in Leo will give us more opportunities in romance and creative projects. It will also stimulate our interest in material possessions and can be a motivating transit quite different from its journey through Cancer.

While Jupiter is traveling through Leo, you do need to keep an eye on your ego and your will. If either gets out of proportion, it can result in a difficult month when you seem to be defending your position often. Leo rules the stage, and while Jupiter transits this fire sign it's important to keep your relationship with the public in perspective. Jupiter will seek growth without restrictions in any sign or house its transiting. With it in Leo, it's very easy to let your confidence and self-image overcome your common sense. Acting arrogantly or insensitively is common, but it will only stir up opposition to your plans. People want to root for a winner, but not one who is egotistical or haughty.

VENUS ENTERS CANCER:

On Friday July 18th at 10:06 A.M. EDT the planet of love and possessions joins Mercury and the Sun in Cancer. This placement is very good for all personal relationships. There is an affinity between Venus and the Moon (ruler of Cancer) that is undeniable. While Venus is in this water sign we will all be more empathetic. Women in particular will express this in interactions with others. It's a good time to begin a new relationship, or take an existing one to a new level. This sign can be overly emotional and at times make a mountain out of a molehill, so try to keep your feelings realistic. But with a little awareness this can be a period when many people can express themselves more easily than usual.

THE SUN SQUARES MARS:

Also on Saturday July 19th at 2:32 A.M. EDT the Sun will square Mars, another of the planets involved in

the Grand Cross. This is a very energetic aspect that can be used to accomplish a lot of hard work. However, it is also usually accompanied by anger and very strong feelings. We all need to be careful for a few days. This square can stir up all sorts of emotions, and can easily result in rash and impulsive actions. There is suddenness to this aspect that feels similar to a Uranus transit. It can take only seconds to react to something in a violent or angry manner, but a lifetime to recover from the event. If you're feeling angry, do not drive, and try to avoid all confrontations. You won't have your usual filters in place and could go overboard about a small affront or insult. Mars is the god of war, so give is its due. This may be a difficult time in some of the hotspots around the world.

Every time Mars, Uranus, or Pluto is aspected it brings up the opportunity for violence on American soil or interest. Caution is called for, but there isn't really much you can do except limit your activities, which is exactly what I hope we won't do.

SATURN GOES DIRECT:

On Sunday July 20th at 4:36 P.M. EDT Saturn finally turns around. Many issues involving business and building have been delayed. This change of direction should move things forward once again. This is a better time to begin a business. Although many very successful ones have been started under retrograde Saturn, they often have periods of difficulty whenever transiting Saturn is afflicted. As Saturn begins its forward motion we will see the truth about what is underlying some very important issues. Is the economy growing, or shrinking? Does Putin really want war in Ukraine (I don't believe so), and if not, what do the Russians want from that region? How will the U.S., Europe, and other nations respond to the growing situation in Iraq? The answers to these questions will become more obvious over the coming weeks. Decisions that have been difficult to make, will be made. The stock markets will respond in a more realistic fashion, and any difficulties in the housing markets or the banking industry will be revealed.

URANUS GOES RETROGRADE:

On Monday July 21st at 10:53 P.M. EDT as Saturn goes direct, Uranus retrogrades. This planet is all about freedom, both individually and in the collective. For the next 5 months it will be difficult at times to express that freedom. There will be internalization about all Uranian issues so that we can explore what this planet represents within. Then when it goes direct we will express those new concepts to the outside world.

MERCURY OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Tuesday July 22nd at 2:47 A.M. EDT Mercury begins creating difficult aspects to the planets in the Grand Cross. This opposition can lead to disputes and underhanded ways of dealing with people. There's a strong desire to get to the bottom of things, but an equally strong wish to be in command of everything. Power struggles are common, and you may find yourself and others acting in a most controlling manner. Take on the important issues, but try to ignore those that are not that necessary at the moment. Use care while traveling.

THE SUN ENTERS LEO:

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Also on Tuesday July 22 at 5:42 P.M. EDT we enter the fixed fire sign. Leo rules acting, creativity, children, and romance. These are the parts of life that will be highlighted this month. We all tend to act like children when we are romantically involved, and more songs are probably written as a result of love (good or bad) and its aftermath. Take the time to pursue any romantic encounters or creative ventures that present themselves. Because Leo rules acting and the stage, this is a time of year when many people "act out" in ways they may not usually do. Give them a stage to present their shtick.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Thursday July 24th at 4:44 P.M. EDT this optimistic and outgoing transit completes. This is an expansive aspect that usually manifests as a sociable and personable energy. This is the last aspect the Sun makes to the Grand Cross planets, and with Jupiter now in Leo ruled by the Sun, there is a strong connection between these two fire-sign rulers. This is a day to take off the blinders and look far down the line towards the future. You may be able to see a different potential and could reach for opportunities that you would normally miss.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Thursday July 24th at 8:07 P.M. EDT Mercury will square Uranus. This is a nervous aspect that may create sudden unexpected events and situations. It will be an active day with a lot of verbal interaction. Arguments and disagreements are common with this square, so pick and choose your battles carefully. This is also an accident prone transit, and if it sets off your chart you should use great caution, especially while traveling. Things will move quickly and erratically so pay attention. Because Mercury will trine Saturn shortly after this completes there will be an underlying stability to the day, which may help us avoid a lot of difficulties usually associated with this square. While this square is difficult to handle, it can represent brilliance and inspiration if you can control it. The trine of Mercury to Saturn will help give that support.

MERCURY TRINES SATURN:

Also on Thursday July 24th at 10:11 P.M. EDT this will trine give some support to that Mercury – Uranus square mentioned above. While things will still be erratic and unpredictable, there will be a sense of stability as well. If Saturn and Uranus are used together in a proper fashion we can make some important changes in our attitude and plans without upsetting the status quo too much. Try to focus your attention on the most important issues. Look for the most stable of ideas and plans and follow those. The inspirational side of the Mercury-Uranus square will function best with a strong foundation beneath it. This trine will provide that foundation if you allow it.

MARS ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Friday July 25th at 10:25 P.M. EDT Mars enters the sign of its ancient rulership. I still give Mars corulership over this sign acting as the lower octave to the Scorpio energy of rejuvenation. But as often happens when a luminary transits the sign it rules, both the positive and negative sides of that energy is amplified. While it transits here there will be a deep sense of renewal in many areas of our lives. After having

spent an abnormally long time in Libra where it wrecked havoc on many relationships both personal and collective, bringing it into Scorpio will take the pressure off of the 7th house issues allowing us to mend those connections that have been damaged, or move on from those that are completed.

But there will also be feelings of deep resentment and passion over relationship issues that have scarred you. The person may be gone but the feelings remain. There may not be much humor or light-heartedness; that will come when Mars enters Sagittarius and we get the joke. For now you may have to explore some of the feelings you have either repressed or denied.

Mars in Scorpio will also bring some of the world conflicts to a new level. The vengeful side of this sign and its representatives is well documented. We usually give Pluto command over hidden agendas and vengeance, but on a personal level Mars will do the same thing. And because both Mars and Pluto were part of that Grand Cross in April we will see the lower and higher octaves of Scorpio continue to interact at least until Mars exits Scorpio on September 13th.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Saturday July 26th at 6:42 P.M. EDT at 03 degrees Leo 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.

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.

June 28th 9:03 P.M. – June 29th 4:43 A.M. *** Moon is void overnight

July 1st 6:00 A.M. – 5:24 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

July 4th 12:21 A.M. – 5:43 A.M.

July 6th A.M. 11:31 A.M. – 3:34 P.M.

July 8th 6:33 P.M. – 9:25 P.M.

July 10th 8:19 P.M. – 11:25 P.M.

July 12th 9:56 P.M. – 11:07 P.M.

July 14th 3:23 P.M. – 10:40 P.M.

July 16th 8:57 P.M. – July 17th 12:07 A.M.

July 18th 10:18 P.M. – July 19th 4:43 A.M.

July 21st 10:13 A.M. – 12:36 P.M.

July 23rd 8:53 P.M. – 10:59 P.M.

July 25th 9:53 A.M. – July 26th 10:55 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

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

July 27th 8:38 P.M. – July 28th 11:37 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

July 31st 10:48 A.M. – 12:09 P.M.

August 1st 10:58 P.M. – August 2nd 10:57 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours.

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New York City

(212) 726-3814

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