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LIVING BY STARLIGHT **an Astrological Newsletter**

June 2014

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The effects of the recent Grand Cross are still being felt throughout the world. That was a period of great stress and tension that created situations in many of our personal lives, as well as on the world's stage (Ukraine, another mass shooting in California, etc.) But just because that aspect is receding into the past doesn't mean that its purpose or influence has disappeared. The ripples are still being felt. Just like when a giant rock is thrown into a lake, there will be waves for some time. Many people are still feeling the affects of that massive aspect. There has been an undercurrent of anger and frustration that is beginning to dissipate. Even though it is still a dangerous and disconcerted situation, Ukraine has settled down a bit since the Grand Cross moved along and they had a presidential election.

As I've been saying that past few months, the Ukrainian situation will not turn into World War III nor create another cold war. This has been a financial ploy that Putin has used to his purpose. He took over Crimea to gain access to the ports, and has distracted the world while he moves much of his oil and natural gas sales towards China. He doesn't want war anymore than anyone else does. We are in an era of economic battles, some of D-Day proportions. But not raging battles of tanks and nukes. As the world prepares for the next era, it's all about food, and oil, and water, the sustainable society. This is the immediate future we face. And the biggest problem humanity will deal with is the environment and whether or not we can survive the atmospheric shifts our species is creating.

As the inner planets create aspects to the planets involved in that Grand Cross (Pluto, Uranus, Jupiter, & Mars), we will have an opportunity to redirect that energy and to work through some issues brought up during the past few months that may linger within our own lives. For the next few months we will continue to work through the affects of that Grand Cross a little at a time.

This may be a strange and confusing month for many. The New Moon is in Gemini, bringing much attention to Mercurial issues. Soon after, however, it squares Neptune, which will create a foggy atmosphere for the lunar cycle. Whenever there is an aspect closely following a New Moon, that aspect will define the energy for that month. Neptune will challenge our sense of reality and purpose. Mercury will retrograde on June 7th in Cancer, and then return to Gemini for almost a month. Communication will be especially difficult and you must take measures to ensure clarity. Besides the usual warnings that accompany retrograde Mercury, this one will have the added intensity that comes when it moves backwards in its own sign.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Wednesday May 28^h at 2:40 P.M. EDT at 07 degrees Gemini 21 minutes. With the New Moon in Gemini, this month will be all about communication and how we relate to each other.

Mercury, Gemini's ruler, will retrograde back into Gemini on June 17th, which will add an extra layer to the situation and make communications even more confusing and difficult. The Sun will square Neptune soon after this New Moon, and it sets the pace for the month. Confusion and misdirection will be prominent, and it's very important to be as direct and honest as possible. Any subterfuge will only create distrust and more confusion. This will be a period of testing in relationships, and as with every time Mercury retrogrades, secrets will be revealed.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Wednesday May 28th at 7:44 P.M. EDT this very difficult transit completes. There will be much confusion today, and it will be more difficult to deal with issues in a direct and open manner. Neptune tends to ignore or attempt to bypass reality, which can create more difficulty than you may realize. Because of the tendency to create illusions and cloud things over, the best way to deal with Neptune transits is in an open and honest fashion. That's the only way to dissipate the fog this planet can bring. This is usually a very bad aspect for the stock markets.

VENUS ENTERS TAURUS:

Also on Wednesday May 28th at 9:46 P.M. EDT Venus enters one of the signs it rules. Love will take on a more possessive and intense feeling. This is one of the most loyal signs, and many of us will feel the deepening in our relationships. It's also one of the most stubborn, and that will also be part of the mixture. It's difficult to change a Taurus' mind, and any planet that travels through this sign will project the traits associated with it. So expect people to be loyal, almost to a fault, and to display that stubborn, unbendable Taurus quality that is both a blessing and a curse. Traditionally, this is a time when cotton futures usually make a run to the up side. But be careful when Mercury retrogrades on June 7th. Confusion and misdirection could affect how you look at the markets. And mistakes are so common, that when I was on the Mercantile Exchange writing my newsletter: *Trading By Starlight* I would begin the publication three times a year with the warning *Never trade on a retrograde*. Of course, if you're in the business, you must trade. But caution and double checking all of your accounts and transactions is essential.

MERCURY ENTERS CANCER:

On Thursday May 29th at 5:12 A.M. EDT Mercury will poke its head into Cancer for a little while, until it retrogrades back into Gemini. While it's in this sign it may be difficult to separate your feelings from your intellect and you may find yourself and others responding more from their emotions than from their thoughts. Keep that in mind when confronting someone. Because of the underlying tension that's still in effect from the Grand Cross, most of us are already in a state of heightened emotional response. Family issues will come to the surface, and the past will seem to become more important. Many of us will have dealings with people, ideas, and attitudes that we thought we had left behind. It's just that unfinished issues will be in the forefront

of our thoughts, and many issues from the past that haven't been completed will demand our attention.

THE SUN TRINES MARS:

On Saturday May 31st at 4:01 A.M. EDT this positive and useful transit will complete. This is a good day to get things done. There's a lot of energy in the air, and if it's directed where it can work well, you can accomplish much. There will be a feeling of strength and stability that can translate into productivity and directness in most situations. Because this completes so early in the morning (as several aspects do this month), you won't feel the full force of this unless you get up and use it. Still, it will produce a positive and constructive feeling.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

On Friday June 6th at 7:20 A.M. EDT the Sun creates this positive aspect to Uranus. This is a good time to redirect your energy into proactive and constructive projects and ideas. It is a time to replace bad habits with good ones, or to seek a new solution to those difficult problems you've been facing. Your perspective is open to new ideas and you may see a way out of a bad situation.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Saturday June 7th at 7:57 A.M. EDT the winged god begins its thrice yearly backward motion. This is a time to step back and consider your options. This retrograde begins in Cancer, and issues involving family, romance, and emotions in general will be most pressing until June 17th when Mercury reenters Gemini. People from your past may emerge, and you might have to deal with some unfinished relationships. As always, double check all plans and paperwork, try not to purchase anything that has to do with travel or communications, such as a cell phone, computer, Lear jet, or automobile. This is usually a very confusing time, and it would be best to avoid anything that may be misdiagnosed or misunderstood. Retrograde Mercury periods are actually excellent times to have important conversations, if you can get the person on the phone. We tend to cut through the B.S. and get to the heart of the matter. Secrets and hidden agendas often show their true nature while this planet is going backwards. Don't sign contracts or other important papers, and leave final negotiations until Mercury is direct. But discussing things and getting to the heart of the matter is easier when the world slows down and we can hop onto the Merry-Go-Round.

VENUS TRINES PLUTO:

On Sunday June 8th at 9:38 P.M. EDT we will all have an opportunity to view our relationships from a place of depth and deeper understanding. Because this is a positive trine, you can do this without upsetting the status quo too much. Any changes that are necessary should be more easily implemented than usual, and you can alter an existing relationship without destroying the foundation. This can be a day of intense feelings, and with mercury in retrograde, and Venus about to oppose Saturn on June 13th (see below) this will be a month of serious thoughts and conversations.

NEPTUNE RETROGRADES:

On Monday June 9th at 3:51 P.M. EDT this spiritual planet will begin moving backwards. This is a time to internalize your sense of spirituality and karma. This is a subtle energy that will affect us all on a deep level. There may not be as many outward manifestations as there are when some other planets retrograde. This has much to do with our feelings of adequacy and purpose in life, but not on the material plane. This transit is usually very good for creativity of any sorts, and many artists will feel more in touch with their work. But it's not a great time to present that work to the outside world. It still needs to be filtered and prepared. Once this planet begins its forward motion on November 16th you should be prepared to show your work to others.

VENUS OPPOSES SATURN:

On Friday June 13th at 12:09 A.M. EDT this difficult aspect completes. For a day or so leading up to this many of us will feel some distancing from our closest people. This can be a difficult day, and because it completes only minutes before the Full Moon in Sagittarius, those feelings could be blown out of proportion. Communication is hard, and it won't be easy to express your feelings. Caution is called for in your relationships. You don't want to overreact to some small slight and then regret your actions. If this opposition is hitting a sensitive point in your chart and you're feeling some isolation or loneliness, just try to let things be for a few days. Mars will square Pluto on the 14th, another difficult aspect for relationships. Wait until that passes and then approach the situation from a clearer perspective.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday June 13th at 12:11 A.M. EDT at 22 degrees Sagittarius 06 minutes. Sagittarius is known for its lack of restriction and boundaries, and the Full Moon in this sign has the ability to push past any rules. While this can be an exciting and fun-filled day, it also can exacerbate any negative situation and make it difficult to pull back once you've begun to move forward. Try to use some sense of order and put in some logical limitations and boundaries. From now until the next New Moon we will all be interested in enlarging projects and ideas. Anyway that you can increase your consciousness will be rewarding. Education of any sort is one way. Travel is another. Seeing new horizons and moving out of your normal routine will force your mind to see things differently, and that's what Sagittarius wants you to do.

MARS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Saturday June 14th at 8:34 A.M. EDT this extreme transit completes. This is a day of power struggles and conflicts. If this square sets off a sensitive point in your chart you may become involved in a confrontation. Use caution and try to sidestep any unnecessary arguments. Most people will be apt to stand up stubbornly for their position, and compromise is difficult to find.

MERCURY ENTERS GEMINI:

On Tuesday June 17th at 6:05 A.M. EDT Mercury retrogrades back into Gemini until July 13th. While it feels at home in its rulership in this air sign, there will be an excessive amount of miscommunication during the retrograde for the very reason that Mercury does feel so at ease here. We won't be apt to restrain our thoughts. That will lead to a lot of chattiness that could inadvertently reveal secrets or lead to

misunderstandings.

VENUS SEXTILE JUPITER:

On Wednesday June 18th at 5:16 A.M. EDT we have this wonderfully sociable transit. Because it completes so early in the morning, and transits are always more powerful while applying than when separating, many of us will miss the affects this can produce. If you can, get up early, have your coffee with the birds and meditate on things. It will be a pleasant and enjoyable start to the day.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Thursday June 19th at 6:50 P.M. EDT we will all be a bit more willful and direct in our communications. This is a positive aspect, and anything that hasn't been said will come out now. Use some restraint, as we can come off as pushy or too aggressive. This is a good transit for writers, radio stars, and those in the communication business on any level.

THE SUN ENTERS CANCER:

On Saturday June 21st at 6:51 A.M. EDT we enter summer. This is the longest day of the year, and represents a peak of sorts. Since the first day of Capricorn, the cup has been filling up a bit more each day. Now it is full, and it's time for it to empty a little bit at a time. This doesn't mean that you can't begin new projects, but it is a time to see how well your objectives are doing, and if you're closer to reaching them. Anything that's not working out should be scrutinized to see if it's still valid. If not, you'd be better off letting go of some things to make room for those that have the best chance of success. For the next month we will be concerned with family, however we define that term. This is the month to spend with the kids and extended group. While the Sun is in Leo next month is a better time for romantic getaways.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Monday June 23rd at 8:34 A.M. EDT love will turn a little intellectual. We will all be chattier in relationships, and it's through discussion that you will have the best chance of hooking up with someone. Carry an interesting book or some other object that can begin the conversation. If you wish to reach someone now do so through the brain. It's the real sex organ anyway.

MARS OPPOSES URANUS:

On Wednesday June 25th at 4:25 A.M. EDT this explosive transit completes right at the end of the lunar cycle. You need to be careful today. Because this occurs early in the morning, its affects will be felt more powerfully the night before. If you're out late, please use caution and avoid confrontations, dangerous neighborhoods, and any conflicts you can. This is a very powerful transit and if you can control it, you can accomplish much in a brief time. But most issues will be about endings, not beginnings. You shouldn't start a new project near the dark of the moon. But you can push existing ones further along and attempt to complete it, or bring it to the next level of development.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday June 27th at 4:08 A.M. EST at 05 degrees Cancer 37 minutes. The day or two leading up to it will be a particularly low energy period. If you tend to be emotional this may be a very trying time each month. I have found that people with prominent moons or a Cancer Sun, Moon or ascendant respond to the cycles of the moon more intensely than others. Spend this time finishing up anything that is incomplete, don't try to initiate new projects on a waning moon, it just won't work out. Once the New Moon hits you begin new projects or attempt a new approach to an existing problem. If you have been living in a situation or involved in a relationship that is intolerable or has outlived its usefulness this would be the proper time to move on with your life. If you have been working on a project that is almost complete but you seem to lack the energy for the finality, you must push during these low energy days to end the matter once and for all. If you don't, when the New Moon arrives it will bring this "dead" energy along with it and conflict with the newer force being presented. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak.

Note: All aspects are most powerful and effective as they apply. Once the transit has completed, its force is lessened. The further it separates the weaker it becomes.

For information regarding personal readings please contact me at: mitchastro@aol.com.

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

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

May 29th 5:59 A.M. – May 30th 10:13 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

June 1st 2:32 A.M. – 9:43 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

June 3rd 10:42 A.M. – June 4th 10:20 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

June 6th A.M. 5:13 A.M. – 10:01 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

June 8th 3:47 P.M. – June 9th 6:38 A.M. *** Moon is void all night

June 10th 10:21 P.M. – June 11th 11:23 A.M.

June 13th 12:11 A.M. – 1:04 P.M. *** Moon is void all morning

June 15th 2:35 A.M. – 1:27 P.M. *** Moon is void all morning

June 17th 2:07 P.M. – 2:26 P.M.

June 19th 3:06 P.M. – 5:26 P.M.

June 21st 6:24 P.M. – 11:03 P.M.

June 23rd 9:49 P.M. – June 24th 7:06 A.M.

June 26th 7:56 A.M. – 5:06 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

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

June 28th 9:03 P.M. – June 29th 4:43 A.M.

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.

May 2014

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