

MONTHLY SINCE 1999

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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

MARCH 2014

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

We begin this month with Mercury just having turned direct February 28th, so this New Moon will have a lot of energy behind it. All New Moons are a time to begin new projects or push along existing ones to a new level. But with the change of direction of Mercury happening now as well, we will all be striving to achieve the most that we can. Remember, when Mercury goes direct there is a strong desire to “catch up” on many things. Some of this may be real or an illusion, but the effect will be the same. You’ll find people scurrying around in a mad rush to beat some deadline, imagined or not and often making mistakes in the name of speed. What makes this more insidious is that we are heading towards the Grand Cross in April, which will be bracketed by two powerful eclipses. There will be a sense that we are all running for the two months from this New Moon and direct Mercury, straight through until the New Moon eclipse on April 29th. Patience will be in short supply, so try to remember to breathe while you’re hurrying.

This month will see a sizable change in the energy around us. Mars and Saturn will retrograde, and Jupiter will go direct. When a planet changes direction there is a redirecting of its force. Retrograding will internalize that power. Going direct will externalize it. Remember, planets are in retrograde when they are on the opposite side of the zodiac from the Sun, putting earth in the middle from a geocentric point of view. That creates a tug-of-war between the Sun and the retrograding planet with us in the middle. This is why it’s difficult to express the energy of the retrograding planet in the outside world. We are not clear about what it means, nor are we able to shine a light on it, because the Sun’s illumination is blocked by the earth. We are literally getting in our own way.

With Jupiter going direct while Saturn retrogrades we are in a strange period. The desire to expand in the material world will be strong. Jupiter knows no boundaries, and having been running backwards for some months it will now insist on being able to enlarge projects and push towards the future. Objectives will be expanded and many things that have been delayed will begin to move forward once again. We think of Jupiter as a benign energy, but that is a misnomer. It is the greater benefic and usually offers help to those who use the energy correctly. But this planet will increase anything it comes in contact with, good or bad. We may very well see an escalation in problematic areas of the world, including Syria and Ukraine. And with America’s chart under such difficult aspects, there’s little doubt that we will be drawn into the mire.

Saturn’s retrograde motion will bring some problems to those projects that are expanded under the direct

Jupiter if the foundation underneath has any weaknesses. Many issues will be challenged and tested to see just how strong the underbelly is. A careful examination of the structure is important, and if you take the time to do so you may prevent difficulties down the line. The worst thing is to spend months on a project only to discover that there was a flaw in its very inception that could have been corrected earlier. With Saturn going backwards it will be more difficult to express the security and stability this planet represents.

Mars is in a lousy position now, traveling through Libra, the sign of its detriment. It rules the opposite sign of Aries, and feels out of sorts in this Venus-ruled passive-aggressive sign. It is difficult for many people to express their Martian power, and it often feels dissipated or watered-down. As it retrogrades in Libra that energy will become even more difficult to express and direct where we wish it to go. This will be a difficult few months for the world in general, and with the Mars part of the Grand Cross in retrograde motion, it will internalize its energy even more. What we are seeing in Syria, India, and especially Ukraine, all with internalized power struggles, will continue and escalate. In the individual's life, many of us will feel a bubbling up or internal rage that will worsen as we realize that we can't easily express the Martian force because of that planet's placement. As we continue to approach that Grand Cross I have noticed a rise even in the level of animosity in good ole New York, not usually known for its gentility anyway. Everyone is feeling the tension, but we can't change what's in the air, only our reaction to it. If you can recognize the stress and sidestep the useless conflicts that confront you, you will handle this energy better and the Grand Cross will be more manageable. You must understand what you can change and what you can't. When a war is begun under a retrograde Mars the aggressor is almost always the loser. This is true in history, and I have found it to be the case in personal relationships as well. Once every two years we are supposed to learn the lessons of passive resistance. How well will we heed our tutorial this time?

And the Grand Cross comes closer. The most likely manifestation of this energy will be some sort of armed attack. There may be several situations triggered at once. For example, if there is a terrorist attack in the U.S., which is a very possible scenario, it may coincide by fate or planning with some escalation in Ukraine forcing America to divide its attention and thus allowing one of those changes in history's path we are all so fond of discussing on the History Channel for generations to come. *What if...*

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Saturday March 1st at 2:59 A.M. EST at 10 degrees Pisces 39 minutes. This last New Moon of the celestial year is all about bringing things to a successful conclusion. After all the worldly events and results, ultimately success and finality have to do with the internal changes we go through as individuals and as a collective, which is why the 12th and last sign is the most spiritual. Whatever your endeavor in life, it always seems to come down to how you feel about what you did, not what the world and its minions feel. This is a period to examine our plans and to make any final changes before we begin a new cycle under the Aries New Moon on March 30th. Once we enter Aries we have entered a new period and it will be that much harder to alter our path.

MARS RETROGRADES:

Also on Saturday March 1st at 11:24 A.M. EST the god of war takes a step backwards. Due to its close proximity to our own revolution around the Sun, Mars only retrogrades once every two years, while most of the planets do so every year. Mercury manages to screw us up thrice annually, but what do you expect in a species so obsessed with communication? It becomes more difficult to express the ego or to dissipate and pent-up anger. People tend to hold it in, and that's when things fester. Major wars and violent encounters often slow down during these periods, but there is plenty of animosity and brutality when Mars is in retrograde. During the Second World War Mars retrograded from September 6th – November 10th 1941. It came out of retrograde just in time for Pearl Harbor. I don't believe the attack would have been such a success had it been launched while Mars was in retrograde. Perhaps the Japanese used an astrologer?

SATURN RETROGRADES:

On Sunday March 2nd at 11:19 A.M. EST Saturn takes its yearly step backwards as well. For the next few months our sense of responsibility and obligations will be directed internally as well. We will be more concerned with what is best for us as individuals, despite any outside influences. This is considered a bad time to begin a new business, but since Saturn is in retrograde for almost half the year it's ludicrous to believe that any business begun during this period will be a failure. Some do quite well with an Rx Saturn in the chart of the company. But it is a time to focus more on what we need for our personal growth than for our corporate success.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

Also on Sunday March 1st at 3:04 P.M. EST the male and female planets are in conflict. This is a lousy day for a date. I would wait until this passes before asking someone out. Social functions in general won't go smoothly, and I wouldn't plan a big party or other gathering today. Venus is getting ready to leave Capricorn (thank god) and this square is a reminder of the period we are exiting. Egos will be fragile and it may be difficult to express your needs.

THE SUN SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Monday March 3rd at 2:13 P.M. EST this sextile completes. This is a day when you can use other people's resources more readily than usual. You should find it easy to get others to work with you on a mutually advantageous project. A business meeting or other financial actions will go well. Plan a business brunch or a video conference call.

VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Wednesday March 5th at 4:03 P.M. EST Venus finally leaves stogy old Capricorn for this erratic and unpredictable sign. Although Mars is still stuck in Libra, at least now there will be some expression of independence and personal freedom. Romance will take a very unusual turn now, and the female side of the equation will be more dominant. You can certainly expect some unexpected events and relationships. This may also represent a radical change in the financial markets. This sign tends to destabilize things, and we will see the results of its transit rather quickly.

JUPITER GOES DIRECT:

On Thursday March 6th at 5:42 A.M. EST the planet of growth and expansion finally turns around. This will help us move our projects forward and aim towards the futures. But it will also lessen our internal growth in some ways. Worldly goals will be more achievable, so it's time to give that great big push for success. Things that have been delayed and frustrating will finally see a breakthrough. But use a little caution for a few days. When the planets change direction we tend to overcompensate for lost time. In this case it will be easy to make too many promises or just take on more responsibility than you can handle. Opportunities may come fast and furious, but they may not all be based in reality, so don't rush into things.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Tuesday March 11th at 2:14 A.m. EST this rather difficult aspect completes. For the day leading up to this we will all be seeing things from a realistic perspective. While this isn't a bad thing, it's easy to only see the negative side when Saturn is effective. Since Mercury rules the lower mind and our moment to moment thoughts, some of us may get into a funk, especially if this hits your chart just so. Don't make any permanent decisions until this passes and your point of view is more balanced. This is a good day for dealing with paperwork or anything that requires attention to detail. Travel isn't a good idea, unless it's for business. Things may not go badly, but there will be little joy in the journey. The effects of this square will linger throughout Tuesday, although they will dissipate as the day goes on.

THE SUN TRINES SATURN:

On Thursday March 13th at 5:16 P.M. EST this very useful transit will allow us the chance to make some important decisions and changes without upsetting the status quo too much. But although this is a positive trine, it's still a Saturn – Sun connection and will convey a sense of obligation and pressure to things. It's a mistake to think of the trines and sextiles as good, and the square and oppositions as evil. They are all just different shades of the energy between the planets and should be seen as easy & flowing, or difficult & testing.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday March 16th at 1:08 P.M. EST at 26 degrees Virgo 02 minutes. This is the last Full Moon of the year, and it always implies a moment of stressful conclusions when we face the successes and failures of the last 12 months. Virgo is the most critical of signs. It rules the auditor, and most of us are busy dealing with taxes and year-end bookkeeping in general. We also must view our relationships and projects with the same auditor's eye and see if they are valid and continue to help us grow as individuals. Sometimes this Full Moon will bring up health issues, especially if it sets off your natal chart. Virgo rules nurses, and the opposite sign of Pisces rules doctors. Polarity is a strong force in astrology. You should always look at the opposite sign to understand the ebb and flow of the energy between the two.

MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:

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On Monday March 17 at 6:24 P.M. EST Mercury returns to this sign where it was briefly in early February before it went retrograde. This is an interesting placement for Mercury. Pisces tends to stimulate our instincts more than the intellect. This is a time to listen to your inner voice and go somewhat on faith. Communications may be a bit confusing, and it would be smart to double check things while Mercury is in this sign.

THE SUN ENTERS ARIES:

On Thursday March 20th at 12:57 P.M. EST we enter Aries. Happy New Year! Woo hoo! Yes, this is the day that is the beginning of the zodiac, and I have celebrated this as the start of the New Year for a long time. We are beginning a new turn around the dial, and this is a time for beginnings and initiative. A bit of caution is called for, as Aries tends to be reactive rather than reflective, and will jump into a pool and on the way down see if there is water. Patience is in short supply, but common sense must prevail to ensure success. This sign likes to start many things, but often will not finish them. It's all about beginnings, not follow through.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Saturday March 22nd at 4:16 P.M. EST this very confusing aspect will complete. This requires focus and concentration, the very things that are missing in this combination. You must be careful what you say and how you say it. Misunderstandings are common and it will be easy to make mistakes. Extra caution is called for while traveling. You need to pay attention to exit signs, directions, and the fuel needle. If you approach this aspect with a light-hearted sense of fun it can be a very pleasant aspect. You can enjoy anything creative or artistic and you may have a deeper understanding of what the artist meant. This is an empathetic energy as well, and you may find yourself noticing the troubles in our society more than usual. Compassion will abound, so don't be surprised by a little unsolicited kindness.

MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:

On Wednesday March 26th at 9:11 A.M. EST this wonderful trine will complete. Most of us will feel the optimism and exuberance, although this does occur in the morning. A breakfast meeting would be a good way to make use of this. Travel should be easy, and your morning commute will have a pleasant air about it. Communications of all sorts are favored, and it's a good day to answer those emails that have been awaiting your attention.

VENUS TRINES MARS AND SQUARES SATURN:

On Saturday March 29th at 3:05 P.M. EST & 5:14 P.M. EST these two very different transits occur. The trine to Mars will give us a morning and early afternoon of balance and direction between the male and female planets. Interaction will be easy and without discord. But even before that trine completes we will begin to feel the tug of Saturn on Venus, a less than enthusiastic energy. It's difficult to express your feelings with this square, and because this comes so close to the Dark of the Moon you need to be careful. If there is any difficulty within an ongoing relationship, this square could be sufficient to set off feelings of futility and alienation. Many things end at the Dark of the Moon, and if you allow a problem to fester now it may seem as

though the only answer is to end the relationship. You would be better off being by yourself for a while, which is the attitude this square often conveys. Then once the New Moon completes you can revisit the situation. Perhaps things weren't as bad as they seemed.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday March 30th at 2:45 P.M. EST at 09 degrees Aries 59 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.

March 2nd 6:04 A.M. – 10:40 A.M.

March 4th 12:31 P.M. – 2:12 P.M.

March 6th 8:55 A.M. – 9:37 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

March 9th 3:53 A.M. – 9:33 A.M.

March 11th 3:50 P.M. – 10:09 P.M.

March 14th 3:24 A.M. – 10:17 A.M.

March 16th 1:08 P.M. – 8:46 P.M.

March 18th 9:07 P.M. – March 19th 5:13 A.M. *** Moon is void all night

March 20th 11:11 P.M. – March 21st 11:39 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

March 23rd 6:40 A.M. – 4:03 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

March 25th 8:35 A.M. – 6:39 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

March 27th 9:13 A.M. – 8:10 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

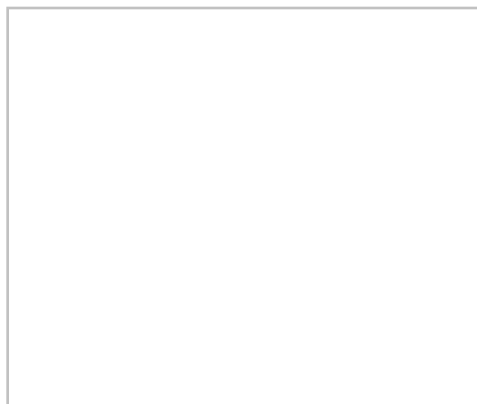
March 29th 9:44 A.M. – 9:54 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

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

March 31st 4:07 P.M. – April 1st 1:20 A.M.

April 3rd 2:43 A.M. – 7:48 A.M.

April 5th 10:55 A.M. – 5:40 P.M.



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New York City

(212) 726-3814

<http://www.mitchastro.com>

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