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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The Sun, Mercury, and Venus will all make positive aspects to the planets involved in the Grand Cross. This will give us an opportunity on a personal and collective level to smooth over some of the issues that came up this past month. While these quick moving transits won't have nearly the impact of that Grand Cross, still they will allow us a chance to put things in a better perspective and to release some of the tension it created. I don't expect everything to suddenly become honky-dory, but at least the day to day stress will be alleviated to some extent. Because we're in between two eclipses we are still in a very tenuous and sensitive time.

The situation in Ukraine continues to be dangerous. Mr. Putin is playing a very scary game that could easily tip into an uncontrollable quagmire. I don't believe he is interested in starting a major war. This is a political and financial dog-and-pony show that has captured the attention of the Russian people and the world and distracted everyone to the real problems at hand. Russia is broke. Its currency is fragile and they are at risk of slipping into recession. By keeping the price of oil above the breakeven mark, Putin can continue to satisfy the growing middle and upper classes that have evolved in that nation over the past 30 years.

Mars goes direct on May 19th and the energy will change radically. When Mars is retrograde wars subside as the aggressive nature is subdued. But once it goes forward there is often an escalation in military situations. I expect there will be such a surge in Ukraine. While I don't believe we are heading for World War III, I do see the dangers and the precarious situation that has been set up. So hold your breath and pray that the world doesn't lose its collective mind and do something stupid as this planet reverses direction.

In personal relationships people will find it easier to express themselves and to be assertive in romantic encounters. This has been a rather fallow period for relationships with neither partner acting in a very aggressive or direct manner. Venus has been in restrictive Capricorn, while Mars has been running backwards in passive-aggressive Libra. Now as Mars goes direct and Venus enters Aries, creating a mutual receptivity between the two (each in the sign ruled by the other planet) neither partner will be playing their typical role, but we can find a common ground.

For those who continue to believe that the Russians and Chinese want to remove the U.S. dollar as the default currency let me just say this:

The way that bonds work is that people, companies, and countries buy each other's bonds and are paid a premium to do so. We lend a nation money by purchasing their bonds, and they pay us back in time based on what those bonds are worth at the time. The rate fluctuates and people trade them minute by minute.

When the markets crashed in 2008-10, other countries paid the U.S. to hold our bonds. Not the other way around. Everyone was so frightened by the implications of that market crash that there was no other place on the planet where they felt their money was safe except in our bond markets. Why would the Chinese and Russians want to create the instability that would occur if our currency was rejected?

The Chinese float their currency (Yuan) unfairly (many believe) and manipulate it to improve their import-export profits and to create the illusion of low inflation and high yield. They float it against a basket of currencies, which all trade against the dollar. Remove the dollar, and their ability to manipulate would disappear. What good would it do to float it against the Ruble, which has no real stability? That's not what they want. Their long-term goals are often overshadowed by their present situation. They want a stable economic world to expand their influence and improve the standard of living. China is using oil, gas, and coal at alarming rates to push their society into the 21st century. But they are also spending huge amounts on solar and other alternative fuel sources. At the moment you can not see your hand in front of your face in Beijing. China is the most polluting nation on the planet. But they aren't stupid. At some point in the not too distant future they will convert their energy to alternative, just like Germany and other European nations are in the process of doing. At that point, any country, including the U.S. that is still using the out-dated fossil fuels as their major energy source will be left in the dirty, polluted dust of "old earth". China can only do all of this will if trade and growth continue worldwide.

When Obama called Putin's actions 18th & 19th century thinking, he was partially right. Nobody wants a military face-off on such a scale as humanity saw in our past. Today we battle through economics, food supplies, health issues, etc. But that's just what Putin's doing. His tools are limited. Russia only exports oil and natural gas with little else being produced on a large enough scale to compete worldwide. The European community gets the large majority of their natural gas from Russia, and they are quite hesitant to implement sanctions against Russia if it impedes the flow of gas and oil. The real standoff now is how long Putin believes he can bully the world. He would like nothing better than for the Ukrainian people to vote overwhelmingly for annexation to Russia. That would silence his critics, as he could point to the election as democracy in action. It would also give him the direct corridor to the sea for his oil and gas without negotiations with Ukraine. It would also increase Russia's breadbasket, and put them deeper into Western Europe. That would be complete success for him. A cold war with Europe would not be. Russia must look ahead to the future and find a place for this large, expansive country. What they need is new ideas and a non-soviet approach to growth and expansion. This is why I believe Putin's hold on power will soon slip away.

On my recent appearance on Coast to Coast I discussed Mr. Putin's chart and the fact that his Sun falls at 13 degrees cardinal, and thus was exactly aspected by the Grand Cross. I also predicted that he has about 2 more years in office as those planets (Jupiter, Uranus, Pluto) move away from that 13 degree mark and head towards his Saturn at 17 degrees. When Uranus begins to aspect that planet in earnest in 2016-17 his power will be challenged and many wealthy and influential people in Russia who no longer cater to his KGB attitude will remove him from power.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Tuesday April 29^h at 2:14 A.M. EDT at 08 degrees Taurus 52 minutes, and it's a Solar Eclipse. Taurus rules the 2nd house of values. Each New Moon and Full Moon in this sign will bring up issues about what is most important to you and how can you make changes to ensure a stronger foundation. When an eclipse occurs in this sign, financial matters often come to a head. Any money issues that haven't been dealt with may become a problem now. Whatever you do on this New Moon will have to be dealt with in the coming months.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Wednesday April 30th at 4:32 A.M. EDT this positive transit completes. This is a good day for any important conversation and the exchange of ideas. Most of us will be optimistic and outgoing, and there will be openness in conversations that will allow us to see both sides of the situation without the usual close-mindedness. Travel of any sort will be rewarding and help expand your consciousness. Because of the expansive nature of Jupiter this will also be a good time to make plans for the future.

MERCURY OPPOSES SATURN:

On Friday May 2nd at 8:56 P.M. EDT this transit occurs. This is the opposite energy of the aspect mentioned above in many ways and will restrict and limit our ability to express ourselves. This is a day of serious communication and thought, and it will be quite difficult to find common ground. I wouldn't plan an important date, meeting, or presentation. You won't have your usual verbal oomph, and if this hits your personal chart, you may be feeling a bit tired or depressed. Don't give it too much power though. This passes quickly and your mood will rebound by tomorrow morning.

VENUS ENTERS ARIES:

Also on Friday May 2nd at 9:21 P.M. EDT Venus enters Mars-ruled Aries. Romantic encounters will be more assertive and less gentle until May 28th when Venus enters its own sign of Taurus. While Venus is in this sign you can expect people to be more aggressive in personal relationships. Women in particular will express a more direct and forceful attitude towards love. Mars is in Venus-ruled Libra at the moment, so we have a mutual receptivity, which will allow a certain balance between the male and female planets. We will be forced to see the other person's perspective, which isn't a bad thing. In fact, this is an opportunity for us all to view relationships from both sides.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Saturday May 3rd at 8:34 P.M. EDT the Sun and the other quickly moving inner planets begin to create positive aspects to the planets that made up the Grand Cross last month. This is a chance to smooth over some of the rough spots in our personal relationships that may linger from that massive buildup of tension. World events will also have an opportunity to settle down. This trine will give a new perspective to the ongoing power struggles in Ukraine, Syria, Israel, and other hot-spots around the globe. How well that is

handled will have a lot to do with the individuals involved. Putin still has Pluto and Uranus afflicting his Sun, as does America. If the two sides are seriously interested in compromise and resolution, it will be possible to at least begin the conversation. But if either side wants conflict, either consciously or unconsciously, these trines and sextiles will not be sufficient to alter a stubborn and unbending attitude. Here is the free will part of astrology – a very important and powerful influence.

THE SUN SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Tuesday May 6th at 5:54 A.M. EDT another positive solar aspect to one of the Grand Cross planets completes. This is usually a very optimistic and enthusiastic transit. It favors the exchange of knowledge and a far-sighted perspective. This would be a good day for important conversations and for making plans for the future. Jupiter's expansive energy wants growth and opportunity to have a free reign. But because Pluto and Uranus are still very much in effect, it will take a major push by the parties involved to accomplish anything of substance. Still, it is possible and there may be some breakthroughs this month. Anything you can do as an individual to increase your perspective, including learning something new or seeing things from a different point of view, will be of great value.

MERCURY ENTERS GEMINI:

On Wednesday May 7th at 10:57 A.M. EDT the winged god enters the sign of its rulership. Mercury feels at home in Gemini, and it will speed up thoughts, communications, and the general pace of our lives. But it can also create some nervousness and a sense of urgency. Be careful and double check your plans and your paperwork. Your mind is moving quickly and ideas will flow at an accelerated rate. Stay mentally busy and you can get a lot of work done. Just be aware of how fast your mind is moving, and pay attention to what you're doing. As this planet creates aspects to the other heavenly bodies, the rapid flow of ideas could become overwhelming resulting in mistakes, so try to slow things down enough to examine what's really going on. This is a good time for all communication, short journeys, and negotiations.

THE SUN OPPOSES SATURN:

On Saturday May 10th at 2:28 P.M. EDT this difficult aspect completes. This will be a day of low energy and irritability. Relationships will not fare well, and I wouldn't set up any important meeting until tomorrow. There is little room for frivolous ideas or events. Most of us will spend the day engaged in obligations and responsibilities. Any positive results from the Sun trine Pluto and the Sun sextile Jupiter (see above) will be tested today to see if there is a strong foundation beneath the hopes and wishes. This will be true in your personal life, as well as in worldly events. We may have a clear and realistic idea of where things are heading in Ukraine and other dangerous areas.

VENUS OPPOSES MARS:

On Sunday May 11th at 5:27 A.M. EDT the male and female planets are in opposition, and as the name implies, there may be some resistance and difficulties in relationships. This is the start of Venus setting off the planets in the Grand Cross. Because of the mutual receptivity I mentioned earlier in this report, there is

the ability to see both sides of the issues and to come to a compromise. But only if you want to. It's easier to ignore positive aspects than negative ones. This will stimulate interest in the opposite sex, and relationships will be in the forefront of our thoughts. How you handle your attraction and your feelings will decide if the results of this aspect are positive or confrontational. Because this coincides with Mercury square Neptune mentioned below, there will be a layer of confusion and misdirection that could make communication quite difficult.

MERCURY SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also On Sunday May 11th at 8:35 A.M. EDT this confusing transit comes along. It's vital that you express yourself clearly and honestly, and not attempt any subterfuge. Any reason to doubt someone's motivations will create more confusion and fear. Because of the world situation at the moment, any misunderstandings could have serious repercussions. Travel is difficult, and you must double check all plans, paperwork, and communications. This is the type of aspect during which you may email the wrong person and have to live with the consequences for a long time to come.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Wednesday May 14th at 1:47 P.M. EDT love will take a very serious turn. There is a strong desire to get to the bottom of things when Pluto is involved. On a personal level this can result in a demanding and harsh perspective. You will not be satisfied with superficial answers and will want to strip away any insincerity. While this square will help us all view our intimate relationships from a deeper and more honest level, it can also result in a compulsive and obsessive attitude that can be damaging to any ongoing relationship. Try not to take everything too much to heart, and lighten up! This passes quickly and there is no reason to make more of it than what it is. Look into your connections with others, and be honest with yourself about the relationship. But don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. There may be some difficulties in your bond with a significant other, but most things can be fixed once you realize where the problems lie. Venus rules the 2nd house of your money, and Pluto rules the 8th house of other people's money or resources held jointly. This square can create difficulties in financial matters, either personally or collectively.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday May 14th at 3:16 P.M. EDT at 23 degrees Scorpio 55 minutes. Pluto rules Scorpio, and with Venus in square to that planet right before this Full Moon, we can expect the next few weeks to be all about relationships and money. Any unresolved issues in your relationships will come to the surface and have to be dealt with. The scrutiny that Pluto demands will be deep and probing, which can have a destructive or a cleansing effect on your closest connections, depending upon how you approach it. Many people will also be confronted with issues regarding their personal finances. This may be a volatile week for the stocks.

MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:

On Thursday May 15th at 7:22 P.M. EDT this very positive aspects offers us a chance to express ourselves

in a new and creative way. It also creates a release valve for that Uranian energy that has been so prominent lately. Look for new ways to deal with old problems. And open your consciousness to any unusual ideas and opportunities. Things that are off the beaten track will probably work best anyway, so let your thoughts go where they may without restriction or pre-conceived notions.

VENUS CONJUNCTS URANUS:

Also on Thursday May 15th at 7:54 P.M. EDT Venus continues to set off the planets in the Grand Cross, and it will become very personal. This conjunct will generally add some excitement to your love life and your creativity. Any ongoing relationship will certainly be more exciting, and if a new love comes into your life now you should probably not expect it to be all that stable. It will be adventurous though, so decide if you're looking for an exciting escapade, or a stable connection. Any ongoing problem in a relationship that the square to Pluto uncovered will come to the surface now and demand your attention.

VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Sunday May 18th at 11:31 A.M. EDT this very sociable aspect completes. This is one of the more pleasant of squares, although there is a strong tendency to overindulge in food, drink, and other pleasurable activities. Because Venus is going to aspect all four of the Grand Cross planets, any relationship can be expected to vary a great deal this month. Look for balance, but don't expect too much of it. This will be a day of exciting encounters and a lot of flirting.

MARS GOES DIRECT:

On Monday May 19th at 9:31 P.M. EDT Mars *finally* turns around. This has been one heck of a ride. Individually it's been very difficult to express sexuality and assertiveness since it retrograded. People didn't seem to take the initiative, so not much happened. Now, because of the mutual receptivity with Venus at least there has been some communication between the sexes, but now that Mars is heading forward we will see a surge in self-expression and aggression. Although it is still in passive-aggressive Libra, at least Mars will be able to show a stronger side. Of course, that implies that the same will occur in worldly events, such as Ukraine and Syria. This is a very important moment as Mars turns around, and we will soon see what's in store for us.

THE SUN ENTERS GEMINI:

On Tuesday May 20th at 10:59 P.M. EDT we enter the mutable air sign. Communication and relationships are what Gemini is all about. This is one of the best time of year for a new love affair with all the hope and dreams of the summer to come. While Gemini and its ruler Mercury aren't what we generally think of as romantic, all relationships are based on communication. And the 3rd house has much to do with how we develop those relationships, whether they're romantic, friendships, or partnerships. This is a time of year that always seems to offer great hope and potential. Try to use this time to get in touch with your inner beliefs.

JUPITER TRINES SATURN:

On Saturday May 24th at 1:48 P.M. EDT this wonderfully useful transit completes. There is a balance between stability and growth that we can all use to our advantage. This is a moment to take things at a slow and steady pace, securing the foundation upon which we can expand. This has been one of the reasons that the stocks haven't collapsed this past month. Now that this is completing and Jupiter is preparing to exit Cancer I wonder if we are in for that long overdue correction. Every time the markets try to drop they are manipulated by the Feds and large hedge funds and continue to expand. We have reached a point in our society where the individual truly is less and less important, and the corporate world has tight hold on the reigns.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Wednesday May 28th at 2:40 P.M. EST at 07 degrees Gemini 21 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.

April 30th 11:53 A.M. – 4:56 P.M.

May 1st 7:32 P.M. – May 3rd 2:13 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

May 5th 4:46 A.M. – 1:56 P.M.

May 7th 6:51 A.M. – May 8th 2:24 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

May 9th 6:08 P.M. – May 10th 1:19 P.M. *** Moon is void all night

May 11th 8:51 P.M. – May 12th 9:07 P.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

May 14th 3:16 P.M. – May 15th 1:44 A.M.

May 16th 3:43 A.M. – May 17th 4:21 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

May 19th 3:02 A.M. – 5:58 A.M.

May 20th 6:21 P.M. – May 21st 8:18 A.M. Moon is void all night

May 23rd 2:26 A.M. – 12:01 P.M.

May 25th 11:58 A.M. – 5:28 P.M.

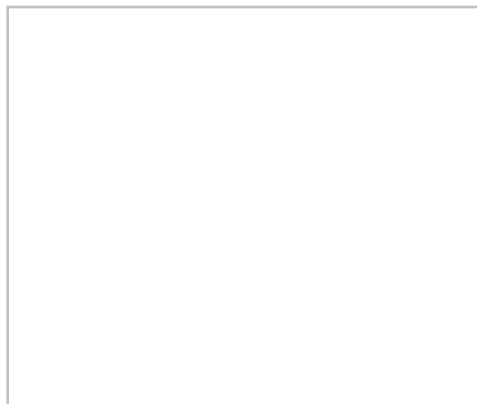
May 27th 5:10 A.M. – May 28th 12:48 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

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

May 29th 5:59 A.M. – May 30th 10:13 A.M.

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

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



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New York City

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