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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

“THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT?”

The title of this piece is taken from John Steinbeck's last novel published in 1961. He in turn took the title from Shakespeare's *Richard the III* from 1594.

So by now I assume with the Ebola scare many of you feel as though you're living through the first few chapters of Steven King's *The Stand*. If you've never read it pick it up. It'll scare the crap out of you. Or watch the beginning of the mini-series with Rob Lowe. It isn't a great movie, but the scenes in New York after the super-flu hits still haunt me. Can you imagine a worse place to be during an epidemic than New York?

I was in New York City on 9/11. There were no trucks allowed onto Manhattan, (It is an island, after all) so no food was delivered. The supermarkets were stripped clean in a matter of hours. Restaurants did what they could for a few days, but they too soon ran out of food. Luckily the “quarantine” was short-lived. Had it continued for even another week I'm not sure what we would have done. Eaten each other?

When it comes to killing, humanity is a piker. After using every available weapon in four years of the First World War, the influenza epidemic of 1918 killed thousands of times more people in one season. Europe lost more than a third of its population. In India alone they estimate that as many as 17 – 31 million or at least 5% of the population died in July – August 1918. America was mostly a rural nation at the time and only lost about 650,000. It was an insidious disease that did not, as most flu viruses will, attack the very young, or the old and infirmed. It struck almost exclusively at those in their prime. The theory is that this particular flu worked through a *cytokine storm* – an overreaction of the body's immune system. The strong immune systems of young adults ravaged the body, while the weaker immune systems of children and older adults resulted in fewer deaths. Whatever the reason, it took about 20 years for Europe to grow another crop of young men and women to fight in World War Two.

What made that flu so uncontainable was the first example of what we now call globalization. The Great War was winding down. America's entry into the conflict, with our fresh, young men and women eager to fight in a battle that had literally worn down the populations of Europe, broke the German lines and led to a fairly quick armistice. Then the troops went home to a hundred countries, carrying the influenza virus with

them, creating a world-wide pandemic. The numbers are staggering. Yet it killed less than 5% of the population and was gone in less than 2 years. Of course that wasn't much solace to those who lost loved ones.

If someone sneezed on you on Monday you were dead by Thursday. Now that's a pandemic!

So will Ebola be the end of the world? In a word – NO! Will it be cured? Of course. When Saturn squares Neptune. Saturn's restrictiveness will control the outbreak and lead to a cure. There will be a vaccine developed that will be worth billions of dollars. Also the virus may have more or less run its course by the beginning of 2016. There will still be breakouts, but by then we will be better able to deal with the problem. **Unless Ebola mutates very quickly and becomes airborne before a vaccine can be produced and distributed it will not be *The Stand*.** And that is very unlikely to happen. But it could still be very bad before it goes away, at least psychologically.

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Viruses run their course. We did not cure the influenza pandemic of 1918-19. It just burned itself out. Ebola will do the same, eventually. You can not quarantine the whole world. You can't stop Ebola or any other contagion in a global economy. You have to cure it. **The crime here is that we've known of its potential for decades. But nobody spent the money to find a cure because we work in a capitalist system, and why would anyone spend billions of dollars to cure a disease that may or may not become a pandemic. What kind of a philosophy is that? What could be more valuable than protecting ourselves?**

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So, is this the Winter of our Discontent? Or is it just another step towards an inevitable future? It's against the law to start or spread a rumor on the stock market or commodities floor. The markets run on psychology more than on fundamentals or anything else. Yet the fear of Ebola has the chance to do more harm than the disease itself.

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This New Moon eclipse at zero degrees Scorpio will have a powerful effect. Any zero degree aspect has the world's full attention. This and the Full Moon in Taurus will bring up issues of possessions and values. Many things will end in society and in our private lives. That's inevitable with eclipses. But where there are endings there are also beginnings. Because this axis is all about 2nd & 8th house values, whatever has outlived its usefulness in our lives will either find a new place to exist, or end altogether. In either case the Scorpio need for death and rebirth demands a cleansing. Remember Scorpio (and Pluto) rule the elimination of waste in the body or the society. This is a time to remove the weeds and toxins from your life and allow for new growth.

On my most recent appearance on Coast to Coast AM I explained that the situation in Ukraine was not the end of the world, the beginning of World War III, or the collapse of western society. It was all about the price of oil. Oil is Russia's main source of income. When the price falls below a certain level (it used to be about \$80 a barrel, I'm not sure what the cutoff point is now) Russia stops making money. Now with the

price precariously edging below that level the Russian economy, already reeling from its abusive oligarchy and sanctions placed by the West, is slipping into a dangerous recession.

Saturn will enter Sagittarius on December 23rd 2014. This is historically a bearish aspect in the stock markets. The crash of 1987 occurred while restrictive Saturn transited this expansive Jupiter-ruled sign.

Saturn was also conjunct Uranus in 1987. These two planets were in opposition in 1966-67 which began a 16 year bear market. They were in opposition when the crash of 2008-10 occurred. Almost all downturns in the markets are a result of Saturn in conflict with Jupiter or an outer planet, Jupiter in Capricorn, or Saturn in Sagittarius.

Saturn will first square Neptune in November 2015. These are all signs of a major reversal in the markets. Whether it's the fear of ISIS, Ebola, or some other unknown entity that will create the events, the markets are on their way down! In July 2005 Saturn left Cancer and entered Leo. That month was the very top of the housing market. It started to show serious weakness soon after. In 2006 Saturn began its opposition to Neptune for a year. This led to the crash and meltdown of that market. Saturn also rules banking, and while that opposition occurred the banks throughout the world were readying their own meltdown as a result of the sub-prime mortgage fiasco. Now we are seeing the square between these two, and the lessons of 2005-7 will once again be brought up. If we've learned from that period and made the necessary adjustments, there shouldn't be a major problem in housing or banking. If we haven't there will be hell to pay. The truth is, we're somewhere in the middle. There have been some changes made to ensure we don't have the same sort of collapse. But not all nations are following that lead. China has extended itself way beyond its banking industry's potential. I believe that is where we will see the unsettling occur.

Already McDonald's and Coca Cola have severely lowered their earnings and long-term expectations. There are a number of reasons for this including competition from other firms, but IBM has also reported a serious drop in income. So are we facing another crash? I don't think so.

Stock market crashes are rare. We need a perfect storm to create one. This looks more like an extended 2 year bear market (with the accustomed bear-market rallies). The markets will probably go sideways and down, not crashing to the basement. America's economy has been improving and shows strong signs of increased manufacturing, exporting, and job creation (albeit many are menial in nature). But globalization has created an interlocking system where weakness in one part of the world may translate into a problem throughout.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday October 23rd at 5:57 P.M. EDT at 00 degrees Scorpio 25 minutes. This is a solar eclipse, following last month's lunar eclipse. This is a critical moment in the world. Last month we had a Lunar Eclipse at 15 degrees cardinal, almost exactly the point of last April's Grand Cross.

The effects of that Grand Cross are being felt throughout our society, and that eclipse brought it all to the surface. The expansion of ISIS, Ebola, and the inflammation of other hot spots on the globe has created an air of fear and hostility. This is to be expected after a major multi-planet transit. It took about a year after the Great Alignments of February 1962 & May 2000 for the events to begin. The Cuban Missile Crisis and Kennedy's assassination followed the first alignment. Bush's election and 9/11 followed the second. We seem to be right on time. Any eclipse has the ability to shake up situations. But aspects hitting at zero degrees of any sign offer a more complex and powerful energy. With this Solar Eclipse at zero degrees Scorpio we will see some underhanded, hidden objectives come to the surface this year. Terrorist attacks are most certainly being planned now and we will see the results this coming year.

Scorpio (Pluto) rules oil. And if you'll notice, the price of oil is at a multi-year low. There's a glut of the stuff on the markets, and it's changing the face of the world one more time.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Saturday October 25th at 3:31 A.M. EDT this pleasant and sociable aspect completes. This is a nice day for any social activity, especially if it hits your chart. Most people will be easy-going, although Mercury is about to change direction later this afternoon, which will bring the usual disruption and miscommunications. For the most part, today will be a good time to enjoy nature, the arts, or any form of entertainment. This is a good aspect for creative people and you may feel some inspiration. Because this completes so early in the morning much of its effects will be tempered by the time many of us awaken. But it will start the day off with an easy feeling, so enjoy it. Maybe a breakfast date is in order.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

Also on Saturday October 25th at 3:17 P.M. EDT Mercury turns around. This is a day to use some caution and prepare for the unexpected. Secrets and hidden agendas of all sorts tend to come out while this planet is changing direction. If you've been waiting for something or for the completion of a plan, it will move forward now that Mercury is direct. Many things that have been delayed will finally come to fruition.

MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Sunday October 26th at 6:43 A.M. EDT Mars enters this Saturn ruled sign. Mars is given exaltation in Capricorn, which may seem hard to understand given the difficult relationship between Mars and Saturn. But exaltation has to do with the best way to use the energy of a planet. In this case, Mars is best served by being focused and having patience. However, there will be a feeling of underlying frustration and delays while it transits this sign. The delays have a purpose and will slow you down enough to examine what you're doing and how you're using your energy. Is it being wasted or dissipated in useless ways? Or are you concentrating your power in a directed and positive fashion? That's the question that will arise as we all deal with this somewhat conflicting force. If used properly in a natal chart, Mars in this sign will give the native the patience and stability to work through difficult or frustrating projects and fulfill what is needed.

VENUS TRINES NEPTUNE:

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On Monday October 27 at 2:48 A.M. EDT this positive trine completes. It will be followed by the Sun trine Neptune tomorrow (see below). This can be a moment of spiritual awareness and compassion. This is a good aspect for all creative endeavors and should be used to push your artistic ventures forward. You'll be more in tune with the needs of others, and can help without much self-sacrifice.

THE SUN TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Tuesday October 28th at 5:50 A.M. EDT this Neptunian energy continues with the Sun now in trine. This is another day of creativity and sensitivity. You'll be in touch with your own feelings as well as the feelings of others. This is a good day for anything spiritual. Meditation, creative projects, or just enjoying arts in general will be rewarding.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Saturday November 1st at 8:44 A.M. EDT the first of three positive sextiles we will see today completes. This is a good day for any intellectual work, or for an important conversation. There's an outgoing and optimistic feeling, and it will be easy to express yourself.

VENUS SEXTILE PLUTO & MARS SEXTILE NEPTUNE:

Also on Saturday November 1st at 7:07 P.M. EDT & 7:44 P.M. EDT these two sextiles complete in such close order that you can not separate them. When both "gender" planets are in aspect to the outer planets, it's a moment when our personal lives seem to intertwine with the collective. Relationships take on a stronger, more "fated" feeling, and it seems as though your personal connections are karmic in nature.

THE SUN SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Monday November 3rd at 5:48 P.M. EDT this sextile completes. Today is a good time to bring things to the surface that have been ignored or kept hidden. It will be easier to reach deeply into situations and grasp a better understanding. This is a good day to ask others for help. A feeling of mutual reliance will make compromises more readily accessible and you will be able to work with others towards a common goal.

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FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday November 6th at 5:23 P.M. EDT at 14 degrees Taurus 26 minutes. The Scorpio – Taurus axis is all about who owns what. These are the issues that are brought to the forefront twice a year when the New and Full Moons are in Taurus and Scorpio. Now with the world in the state it's in, and with so many people struggling just to survive in a capitalist system gone haywire, we will be confronted with issues of fairness and equitability.

MERCURY ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Saturday November 8th at 6:09 P.M. EDT Mercury finally reenters Scorpio. Conversations will be deeper and at times more difficult to begin, but once you've gotten the ball rolling many will be more honest

and delving than they were while Mercury traveled through passive-aggressive Libra. Scorpio has little patience for beating around the bush. Those with this placement in their natal chart do tend to demand honesty and depth of understanding. It's difficult to find compromises, and the compulsive nature of this sign makes it hard to change someone's mind. But at least you'll know where the other person stands. And if you present your arguments in a concise and direct way, you may be able to convince them to review their perspective in a new light.

VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Sunday November 9th at 3:41 P.M. EDT this interesting square comes along. This is unlike most squares. When the two benefic planets are in aspect there is little struggle or the usual tug-of-war we all feel under most squares. It will be difficult to recognize boundaries and limitations, especially where eating and spending are concerned. There is little restraint with Jupiter, and Venus rules our physical pleasures. The combination leads to a moment of unbridled pleasure-seeking and little regard for normal parameters. I would assume those restaurants that offer a brunch with limitless drinks will be quite busy. Be careful what you promise under this aspect. You may be feeling very altruistic, but could regret your decisions once this passes. However you will still be straddled with your commitment.

MARS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Monday November 10th at 6:03 P.M. EDT we have this powerful and demanding configuration. There is little room for compromise when these two planets are in orb. Opinions are strong and unbendable. Power struggles are common, and you should pick and choose your confrontations carefully. This isn't about right and wrong, but about who has the upper hand. As such, if we use our normal set of rules, many of us could get involved in situations that we don't completely understand, and wind up the loser when we weren't even aware that there was a contest. At times this can result in underhanded manipulation, or even violence. Use caution if you're confronted by someone. There may be an underlying anger you aren't even conscious of. If this conjunct hits your chart you may be projecting those feelings without realizing it.

VENUS CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Wednesday November 12th at 8:02 P.M. EDT this difficult aspect completes. As I said earlier, when Venus & Mars are both aspected by outer planets those aspects need to be considered together. They will combine to form an air in which relationships will be heightened and tested. With Mars recently in conjunct to Pluto (see above) and Venus now conjunct Saturn you can expect some difficulties in your most personal relationships. The Mars-Pluto demands a deeper understanding; and this conjunct demands stability and is looking at the long-term. Any relationship that is just passing through your life may be dismissed now. There's little room for frivolity. Everyone is serious and trying to make important and long-lasting decisions.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

On Thursday November 13th at 10:05 P.M. EDT there will be a desire for growth and expansion on all

levels. Jupiter squares are usually more beneficial than others. There's an underlying feeling of optimism and enthusiasm that may or may not be justified. Although there is a tendency to overdo things, and if you're not careful this aspect can lead to exaggerated promises and overbearing situations, still the fundamental feelings will be positive and inclusive. Just make sure you don't bite off more than you can chew, or take on a project that isn't realistic.

NEPTUNE GOES DIRECT:

On Sunday November 16th at 2:06 A.M. EDT this spiritual planet begins its direct motion. While Neptune is retrograde many artists dig deeply into their creativity and may produce some of their best work. But it's difficult to present it to the world. Now that Neptune is turning around, much of what was produced over the last 5 months will be more accessible to the public. This is a good time to make plans to show your work to the world. This is a moment of spiritual conflict or understanding. Which one will prevail has to do with how in touch you are with your inner self. If you haven't been paying attention to your inner voice, this may be a moment of crisis. But if you've been mediating and opening your chakras, you will experience this as a stronger connection between the inner and outer worlds. The direct motion of Neptune will also help us recognize Ebola and other contagions more correctly and help find solutions to them.

VENUS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Sunday November 16th at 2:04 P.M. EDT Venus enters Jupiter's domain. This will expand our opportunities in romance and finances. As I said earlier in this report under Venus Square Jupiter, while the combination of these two energies is usually positive and expansive, it often leads to a lack of discipline and confusion about boundaries. While Venus is traveling here you can expect more affairs, but fewer marriages. Travel will be very rewarding and help open our consciousness in ways that may have been thwarted while Venus traveled through Scorpio.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Tuesday November 18th at 3:50 A.M. EDT this very tough aspect completes. There will be a serious and somewhat confining feeling. This is not a day for frivolous activities, but rather a time to examine your life in an honest and realistic way. Limitations and frustrations are common. Nothing will move easily, and delays of all sorts are to be expected.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday November 20th at 9:56 A.M. EDT the lower and higher octave of the love energy are in conflict. You can expect confusion and misunderstandings in your most personal relationship and in your finances. If a new relationship presents itself now, I would give it time to prove its worth before committing too much to it. There is fogginess about romantic issues, and while this can create a very dreamy and unreal atmosphere that can be pleasant and quite ethereal, when the fog lifts things will not be as they seem. You probably won't find solid ground upon which to build for the future, and you may realize that it was only a passing fancy and not the love of your life. Financial matters will also be confusing and unreal.

Money may seem to just disappear, so plan carefully and don't bring your credit cards to the casino.

THE SUN ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Saturday November 22nd at 4:38 A.M. EDT the Sun enters the mutable fire sign right before the New Moon. This is the most freedom loving of the 12 signs, and most of us will feel the tug from this uninhibited energy. This is a time of sociability, travel, and expansion of consciousness. With Venus already in this sign and Mercury about to enter on November 27th, there will be a strong desire to act out in Sagittarian ways. Try to retain some sense of boundaries and limitations, but enjoy this energy for what it is. As I say most years: While Christmas falls in stogy old Capricorn, the decorating and shopping season takes place in Sagittarius allowing for more frivolity and spending. Accidental? I wonder.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Saturday November 22nd at 7:32 A.M. EDT at 00 degrees Sagittarius 07 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.

October 25th 12:11 P.M. – October 26th 12:40 A.M. *** Moon is void 12 hours

October 27th 12:18 P.M. – October 28th 6:03 A.M. *** Moon is void 18 hours

October 29th 11:10 A.M. – October 30th 9:52 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

November 1st 2:22 A.M. – 12:37 A.M. *** Moon is void all morning

November 3rd 4:05 A.M. – 1:53 P.M. *** Moon is void all morning

November 5th 8:25 A.M. – 4:33 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

November 7th 11:17 A.M. – 8:45 P.M. *** Moon is void all afternoon

November 9th 11:22 A.M. – November 10th 3:38 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

November 12th 4:16 A.M. – 1:44 P.M.

November 14th 9:53 P.M. – November 15th 2:08 A.M. *** Moon is void all night

November 17th 6:11 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

November 19th 9:25 A.M. – November 20th 12:31 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

November 22nd 12:53 A.M. – 7:19 A.M.

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

November 23rd 10:16 P.M. – November 24th 11:31 A.M.

November 26th 10:30 A.M. – 2:23 P.M.

November 28th 12:14 P.M. – 5:03 P.M.

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