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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The volatile situations in the world seem to be escalating. That's exactly what I expect them to do, as Mars prepares to enter expansive Sagittarius. The situation in the Syria-Iraq area must explode into a worldwide conflict or it will linger far too long and continue to destabilize that region. From a world perspective, ISIS must be stopped, and the only way that will happen is if enough of the so-called civilized nations decide to do so. The pandering and pussy-footing around has not worked. This will not go away by itself, it must be brought out and purged like any infection. Mars in Scorpio has been hesitant to do so. When Mars enters Sagittarius on September 13th (see below) we can expect to see an escalation and new determination from the world. Of course, we can also expect to see the same from the individuals we are dealing with, so be prepared to be confronted about a number of personal issues as well.

Everyone is waiting for the next stock market crash. This always amuses me. I've lectured about the history and astrology of the markets since 1999. I accurately predicted the crash of 2008 about 18 months in advance, within a few weeks of its occurrence. I also predicted the follow-up crash of 2010. However, since then the markets have gone up or sideways. Not down. Why? Because the stocks go up about 80% of the time. Betting against the markets is like betting against the house in a casino. You may win in the short run, but they didn't open those places to lose money. And in the long run the house always wins. Yet many astrologers feel it is their duty to predict the end of the world. I don't. I try to use astrology realistically and within the framework of what we call reality. Despite all the terrible aspects and events, so far I haven't seen the world end, nor do I expect it to.

I always look ahead to see if we are heading towards a cliff. In the 70s, there were half a dozen mini-crashes after the last Saturn-Uranus opposition. This time we haven't seen that reaction because the world is far more stable than it was back then. (I know it doesn't seem that way. But it is.) Also because the markets are far more manipulated than they used to be. The FEDS simply push a button and move a trillion dollars into the system. What the long term effects of this policy will be remains to be seen. But many people, myself included, consider this a very dangerous and narrow-minded approach. Yet I also understand the devastating effects of a market crash and the overpowering desire to avoid one at all costs.

The markets go down under certain aspects. When Saturn is in conflict with an outer planet or when it

conflicts with Jupiter. They rarely crash, and then only under incredibly harsh transits. It was Saturn opposite Uranus that created the crash of '08. The last time we had this aspect was in 1965-67. It was followed by a violent and erratic bear market with huge rallies that lasted a year or more. But with all the buying and rallying, in 1982 the DOW was just where it had been in 1967.

Saturn will enter Sagittarius this year, (a bearish aspect) and it will square Neptune November 2015 – September 2016. But we will begin to feel the effects of this aspect when Saturn enters Sagittarius in December 2014. That will be the first hint that there are some problems in the underbelly of the beast that may lead to a recession. Expect to see some bearish reports out of Europe, China, and the U.S. by the end of this year. **I believe that the entrance of Saturn into Sagittarius will have a two prong effect. The housing market will show growth, at first. The stocks may rally briefly, but that is an illusion. This is a very bearish time historically, and with the square to Neptune about to unfold I would certainly use caution. It may be the top of the equities for the time being.**

Pluto will also oppose America's Sun throughout 2015. This combination of aspects has the greatest degree of likelihood of a crash in the housing markets and banks (both Saturn ruled), and subsequently the stocks. At the very least it'll be a major correction. There will be a bottoming in late 2016 and that may be a buying opportunity. But still – the next real bull market is several years away.

In the long run the only way most Americans make any real money is through their home equity or the stock market. So what should you do if the markets crash? Buy, baby, buy!

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Monday August 25th at 10:13 A.M. EDT at 02 degrees Virgo 19 minutes. This is a critical New Moon that can bring up many issues of health and self-assessment. Virgo is the sign of the auditor, and when its energy is prominent we tend to view all things with that detail-oriented point of view. Because Mars conjuncts Saturn only a few hours after this New Moon, the constrictiveness of that following aspect will have an effect throughout this coming month. Keep your plans and ideals in a realistic and doable place. Mars and Saturn can be used well together if the goal is possible and the approach is focused and single-minded. Add the energy of Virgo to that and you have a perfect combination for contained and limited actions. This is a great month to complete some writing or other project that you've been working on. But keep the scope of the project within reach, and don't suddenly decide to have Sherlock Holmes compete with a three-headed alien. (Although I'm sure someone will publish something similar very soon.) That might work under Jupiter-Uranus aspects, but not Mars-Saturn.

MARS CONJUNCT SATURN:

Also on Monday August 25th at 3:30 P.M. EDT this restrictive transit completes. Most people will be restraint and not likely to engage in violent or even physical activities. This can be a very frustrating day when things don't seem to go your way. This is more of a slow-burn than an outburst. Any transit that completes near a New Moon will have a larger effect on that lunar cycle. As I said above, with Mars conjunct Saturn

right after the Sun-Moon conjunct we can expect some limitations and a need to focus our attention and energy where it will do the most good. There won't be any extra to waste. This is a month of hard work and discipline. That's the best way to use the Mars-Saturn connection. If this conjunct afflicts your chart, especially your Mars, this may be a difficult time to express your ego, which could be a refreshing idea.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Tuesday August 26th at 2:22 P.M. EDT the other half of this wet-blanket moment completes. Because there is a Venus-Mars square tomorrow (see below), both of these planets will conflict with Saturn. This isn't a great time to begin a relationship unless you are looking for a very long-term and quite limited one. Many marriages have a strongly placed Saturn, usually aspected an inner planet. And there will probably be some proposals made this week. But a new relationship started with such restrictions has only a small growth potential. If there's an ongoing relationship, these aspects may bring up the desire to plant deeper roots and work for the future. This isn't a great day to express your feelings, or for a first date.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

On Wednesday August 27th at 11:45 A.M. EDT the so-called male and female planets have a spat. The fundamental relationship between Venus and Mars is well-known to students of astrology. When these two are in conflict such as now, it's best to avoid direct confrontations. You won't change anyone's mind, and you're almost sure to piss each other off. By this evening this energy will have dissipated enough for cautious interaction.

THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Friday August 29th at 10:33 A.M. EDT this difficult and confusing transit comes along. Nothing will be as it seems. Expect much miscommunication and misunderstandings. Many people will feel fragile. Egos are not prominent, and if you have an inner planet afflicted to Neptune in your natal chart, this can be a difficult day. This is also true if this opposition at 6 degrees mutable hits any of your inner planets. Use caution in all things, and don't assume you're seeing anything clearly. This is usually a very bad day for the stock markets.

MERCURY ENTERS LIBRA:

On Tuesday September 2nd at 1:38 A.M. EDT the planet of communication will enter the sign that rules marriage. I wonder what we'll all be talking about. It is the time to examine your relationships and express your feelings. Mercury and Venus are about to experience a mutual receptivity (each in the other's sign). This will aid communication in relationships. Venus in Virgo has a difficult time (see below), and it can be too intellectual in love, but if you bring everything out into the open and discuss it, you will be better able to smooth over the rough spots. Short journeys can bring couples closer together.

VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:

On Friday September 5th at 1:07 P.M. EDT the planet of love and possessions enters this intellectual sign. Venus has a hard time in this critical and demanding place. The Venus energy prefers to be all loving and

accepting, but here the mind takes over and love is analyzed rather than experienced. It's a difficult placement in a natal chart. Observe the interactions among couples this month and you'll have an idea of what it's like to be born with this aspect.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday September 8th at 9:38 P.M. EDT at 16 degrees Pisces 19 minutes. This is an ethereal sign ruled by an outer planet. It's not really about the single person, but more about the collective. The question today is: *What do you believe in?* This sign is all about faith and universal love, not individuality. In *Miracle on 34th Street* one character says: *Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to.* Wise words in pop culture. Under this Full Moon many of us will have to deal with these issues. Will it be a crisis of faith, or just an attempt to reach out to something beyond ourselves? Which it will be has to do with what you've been doing these past six months since the Pisces new Moon. Have you been selfish and self-serving, giving all of yourself to others, or a healthy balanced combination of the two? In any case, as with all Pisces issues, this has to do with completions and recognizing the boundaries between the individual and the collective. This Full Moon usually doesn't result in serious or explosive situations. But many of us may feel its effects internally.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Tuesday September 9th at 6:38 P.M. EDT communications will take on a serious and unyielding tone. This is not a good day to clear the air with someone, although that may be exactly what you do. The need to reach deeply into any situation is strong, and you may do just that. However, it's difficult to pull Pluto energy back once it's been released, so if you do get into *that conversation* you can expect to say and hear things you might not be ready to deal with. Compulsiveness is common, and it will be hard to accept superficial answers. Arguments will abound, and if you pay attention as this aspect approaches, you will notice many people having disagreements everywhere. You don't have to be one of them.

VENUS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday September 10th at 6:51 A.M. EDT romance will be extremely confusing and unreal. This is a lousy aspect for beginning a new relationship. Nothing is clear, and everyone is playing a role. The fact that this completes early in the morning doesn't clear it away. Its effects will be felt for days to come, and any commitment made under this energy will have to be dealt with for the duration of the relationship. If you're interested in someone new, give it a week or so before you make that commitment. If you still feel this way when Venus has pulled 6 or more degrees away from the opposition to Neptune, then go for it. This can be a very creative force, so if you're working on any artistic venture you may be able to move it along now. Follow your intuition, not your common sense.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Wednesday September 10th at 2:37 P.M. EDT this positive sextile completes. This is a good day for certain kinds of reasoning and communication. There's an optimistic attitude in the air, and a desire to

chat. Just don't put too much hope in a romantic encounter while Venus is in opposition to Neptune (see above). This is a good day for travel, especially short journeys.

MERCURY OPPOSES URANUS:

On Saturday September 13th at 4:16 A.M. EDT this intense and nervous transit comes to completion. This is a very difficult aspect. Thoughts are coming quickly to many of us, and it's difficult to control the tongue. There's a strong desire to say exactly what's on your mind, no matter what the consequences. So use some caution when you open your mouth. A momentary urge can have long-term results. If this sets off your chart you may be accident prone or combative. Awareness is all. Keep your mind open and pay attention to how you're acting.

MARS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Saturday September 13th at 5:57 P.M. EDT Mars enters this Jupiter ruled sign. Until October 26th the god of war will be in this expansive sign. Sagittarius has little regard for boundaries or limitations. Individually many of us will notice an increase in ego tensions and a more forceful and direct approach to things. This can be fine as long as caution is used. But because this sign has no regard for such things, it's often a case of who's got the bigger one. (ego, I mean). The world stage may see escalation in all things warlike. And with so many areas in flamed today, this isn't the most welcome news. But it may force some situations to a head that had been lingering undecidedly while Mars has been in Scorpio. Any military plans that have been in the works will now be put into action. Sagittarius is a fire sign, and Mars rules Aries, also a fire sign. So expect to see some flames.

VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:

On Sunday September 21st at 9:03 A.M. EDT we will all be more realistic about our relationships and our resources. This is a good time to examine your close connections to others and see if they are serving their purpose. It's also a good time to create a budget and look at your finances with a clear and pragmatic eye.

MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Sunday September 21st at 11:40 P.M. EDT this difficult transit completes. Mars and Neptune do not get along all that well. Mars represents the strength, ego, and fortitude of the individual. Neptune couldn't care less about any of that. It's Mars that suffers the most under this combination. It feels watered down and ineffectual. It's difficult for the individual to focus with the surreal Neptunian force in play. And the collective seems to lack any real direction. Military actions taken today will not turn out as hoped. It would be a day of bad information and disastrous decisions. This is usually a bad day for the stock markets, but it can just be a confusing one – with the equities going, up, and then down, and maybe up again. Who knows? It's not a good day to make permanent decisions about any important issues. Leave it alone for a day or two and then view it again with a clearer mind.

PLUTO GOES DIRECT:

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On Monday September 22 at 8:34 P.M. EDT Pluto turns around. Many things have been buried in the unconscious both personally and collectively. Now they will come out into the open. This is a reversal of energy on a very deep level. Issues of power will come to a head, and if you've been waiting for a change in a power struggle, this may be the time. You will no longer be able to hold your feelings and desires inside. They will tend to come out with the reversal of this planet.

THE SUN ENTERS LIBRA:

Also on Monday September 22nd at 10:29 P.M. EDT we enter autumn. Students of astrology know that each season begins when the Sun enters each of the 4 cardinal signs. This is the beginning of the 3 months that comprise fall, that most changeable of seasons. Libra rules intimate relationships of all sorts. This is often a time when people begin to think about coupling for the winter. I know that's an antiquated idea, and our society has evolved way past that. But old habits are hard to break, and many important relationships seem to start in this season. In any case, this is a time for partnerships and other relationships to take inventory and see how the connection is holding up.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Wednesday September 24th at 2:14 A.M. EDT at 01 degree Libra 08 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.

August 26th 10:29 P.M. – August 27th 5:54 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

August 29th 12:00 P.M. – August 30th 4:53 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

September 1st 11:40 A.M. – 1:17 P.M.

September 3rd 2:06 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.

September 5th 11:08 A.M. – 7:59 P.M. *** Moon is void all afternoon

September 7th 1:19 P.M. – 7:47 P.M.

September 9th 3:09 P.M. – 7:33 P.M.

September 10th 8:58 P.M. – September 11th 9:17 P.M.

September 13th 9:31 A.M. – September 14th 2:26 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

September 15th 10:05 P.M. – September 16th 11:24 A.M. *** Moon is void all night

September 18th 2:38 P.M. – 11:10 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

September 21st 12:33 A.M. – 11:54 A.M. *** Moon is void all morning

September 23rd 8:15 A.M. – 11:59 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

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

September 26th 8:39 A.M. – 10:29 A.M.

September 28th 4:31 P.M. – 6:50 P.M.

September 29th 11:29 P.M. – October 1st 12:41 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days

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