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ISSUE # 194

## **LIVING BY STARLIGHT** **an Astrological Newsletter**

**July – August 2015**

### **AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

In last month's newsletter I discussed the difficult aspects of Mercury and Mars in opposition to Pluto. These two squares completed July 15<sup>th</sup> right before this New Moon, and resulted in the recent increase in violent actions, both by terrorists and random street murders. This coming month, due to the conjunct of Mercury to Mars, and the separating square between Uranus and Pluto we will now see Mercury and Mars in square to Uranus. These are both potentially dangerous aspects that will require our attention. Mercury will square Uranus on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and Mars will complete the square July 25<sup>th</sup>. Caution is called for in general, and especially issues of communications and transportation.

China's bubble is beginning to collapse, as I've been warning for a long time. This is the most dangerous situation economically we are currently facing. Greece is a problem, but I don't think the EU will allow it to completely fold. It's a small country of about 10 million and can be dealt with. While it represents a chink in Europe's financial armor, and could certainly cause much stress and continued financial problems, China is a behemoth. The comparison is not even worth noting. The Chinese have artificially created a boom economy with supposed growth of about 7% a year. But much of that growth is a result of a massive three-card monty game. The red queen, so to speak, isn't even in the game, having been removed through slight of hand, so no matter which card you choose you have no chance of winning. They move their money from one area to another, puff up their stock market through government intervention, and have created a housing bubble as dangerous of the U.S. market that imploded in 2005-7. Sound familiar? That's just what we did prior to the crash of '08. As I've said many times in this newsletter, the Chinese have built entire cities, complete with malls featuring phony KFC, Nike, and Starbuck's signs. But nobody lives in these cities. Still, they are included in measuring growth and expansion, and added to the general wealth, even though they are a terrible disaster costing billions of dollars than may never be recovered. The Chinese government is attempting to force the entire population to accept urbanization with no

time for adjustment or redirection. Recently the nomads of Mongolia have watched as their ancestral homelands have been stripped and they have been forced to give up the lifestyle they've know for centuries forcibly moved into tiny apartments with no livelihood or chance of escape. This is not the way to modernize a nation. The effects of these badly planned dehumanizing actions will haunt that nation for many years. How bad the results of this Chinese bubble popping will be has much to do with how much the hedge funds and banks of America, Europe, Japan, and the rest of the world have invested. If, as I'm afraid may be the case, your retirement fund is partially financed by investment in this Ponsi scheme, when this bubble does finally explode it will have reverberations throughout the world. And we will once again watch as our pensions and retirement funds suffer large loses.

This month we will see Jupiter square Saturn on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This aspect will return next spring in the mutable signs. Now it is in the fixed signs of Leo and Scorpio. How well we handle the expansiveness of Jupiter and the restrict energy of Saturn has much to do with the way our society moves forward. This is a time to use caution and pay close attention to that interaction. If we expand too quickly we will see much of our attempts collapse in the near future. If we don't expand enough, it will lead to a repression of growth that could take years to overcome. This square is an opportunity to put just the right amount of restraint while still allowing for expansion. If we miss the chance, it will come again next spring, but the energy of the mutable signs will not have the same effect that dealing with this issue in the fixed signs offers. We as individuals must also face this complicated transit as it travels in our own charts. Take your time and accept that many things will take longer than you expect. With patience and a farsighted perspective we can get a great deal done while supporting Saturn's foundation.

Jupiter enters Virgo on August 11<sup>th</sup>. This largest of planets takes a year to transit each sign, and there will be a major shift in our expansion and attitude towards the future. As it travels through Virgo we will see more attention given to the details underneath the surface. Jupiter isn't all that comfortable in this sign, as it tends to limit the expansive perspective Jupiter prefers. But this is a necessary and important part of Jupiter's 12 year cycle. I expect that the recent explosion in television stations and programming will continue at the cost of what many consider the demise of feature films. Most major motion pictures are now only live cartoons with comic book superheroes. It is Netflix, HBO, and other so-called smaller venues that are now leading the artistic revolution, not the Hollywood studios. This will continue for the next year as Jupiter aims its incredible growth potential towards the smaller and more manageable outlets. We will become more concerned with micro-management of our environment, water supply, weather patterns, etc. Humanity is facing the

worse we have ever known as a result of rapid, unrestrained climate change. The bees are dying by the billions. Without them there is no earth as we know it. I'm hoping that Jupiter in Virgo will do its job and force the nations to address these issues in a bigger and more comprehensive manner.

Please read what I have written below on August 11<sup>th</sup> regarding this transit for more examples.

The weather changes are disastrous to many parts of our nation, but we aren't alone in this problem. Brazil, Europe, Canada, and many other areas are facing catastrophic alterations in their climate, and unfortunately this is only the beginning. If we don't switch from fossil fuels to clean alternatives, such as wind, solar, thermo, and wave devices, our time here is limited and our lives will become much more difficult.

I hope you are all enjoying this lovely summer and pray the coming winter isn't as bad as we've seen.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:24 P.M. EDT at 23 degrees Cancer 14 minutes.** The Cancer New Moon represents our connection to issues involving emotions and family. This is a time of highly emotional interactions. Relationships will be in the forefront and we will all have to contend with some difficult reactions from our loved ones. The past looms large under Cancer energy, and July is often a period when we spend time with family and old friends. The cardinal signs are the initiators of the zodiac, and this is a month of new beginnings when many people take a different path. This New Moon is NOT a void of course moon, as we have had for much of the past year. It should be easier to begin new projects and see them through to fruition. This is a time to look inward and make changes in our attitudes and refurbish our homes, both the external house and the internal where the soul resides. Once again I suggest you all take an occasional trip to visit our ancestral home, the ocean. The motion of the waves is both relaxing and hopeful in its consistency.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:**

**On Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:14 A.M. EDT** this powerful and dangerous aspect completes. Because of the ongoing square between Uranus and Pluto, this has been a few weeks of explosive and unpredictable situations. Terrorist attacks and street murders have increased, and this energy will continue to be quite active at least until both Mercury and Mars complete the squares to

Uranus. Mercury will do so on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and Mars will square Uranus July 25<sup>th</sup>. For a few days surrounding this aspect it's important to pay attention to how you say things. There is an underlying intensity to most communications that can come out as angry or overly aggressive. Arguments and disagreements are common, and it's wise to sidestep any unnecessary disputes. They will only cause friction and most likely won't resolve anything. But it may be necessary to clear the air, so if you feel like you've been holding something in for a long time, this may be when you express it. Just try not to let your ego have too much power. Caution is also called for while traveling. If you are feeling angry you shouldn't drive a car. Accidents or road rage is certainly possible.

### **VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:38 P.M. EDT** Venus enters picky, critical Virgo. This is a good placement for creative people, as it produces a strong ability to see the smallest of details and to focus in. But it's a difficult placement for personal relationships. We tend to find fault and overanalyze things that are better off left to their own devices. Love relationships will especially feel the brunt of this placement. Try not to take things too seriously or too personally. If you over analyze something you lose the spontaneity that intimate relationships require. This is a good time to map out a budget or deal with financial matters. That critical side can be used to focus in on the material issues. It's a better placement for business than for personal situations.

### **MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:**

**Also on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:07 P.M. EDT** this is another potentially explosive transit. Caution is once again called for in communication and transportation. Mercury rules the lower octave of the mind, while Uranus rules the higher level. When they are in conflict there is sometimes a "short circuit" that can cause all sorts of difficulties. This can be an argument or an accident waiting to happen, so step cautiously. Expect problems with computers, cell phones and other technological devices. Back up your important files and be careful with all internet activity. Viruses, hacking, and other invasive problems may cause havoc. Travel can be very difficult and it may be hard to avoid accidents and confrontations.

### **THE SUN TRINES SATURN:**

**On Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:08 A.M. EDT** this stable trine will add some foundation to situations. Because we are about to see Mercury conjunct the Sun, it is followed tomorrow by the Mercury trine Saturn, so we have a few days of stability and focus. Use these transits to think things through and make some decisions. You will be clear and realistic in your thoughts and you can balance or

stabilize any number of issues.

### **MERCURY TRINES SATURN:**

**On Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:51 P.M. EDT** most of us will be logical and realistic. This is a continuation of yesterday's energy and you should be able to use it proactively. These trines are quite useful and productive, but only if you make the effort to actively direct the energy into positive activities.

### **THE SUN ENTERS LEO:**

**Also on Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:31 P.M. EDT** we enter the fixed fire sign. Leo rules the 5<sup>th</sup> house of children, creativity and romance. This is a good time to get away with your significant other or for group activities with friends. This can also be a good period for artists, especially performers. Leo rules the stage, and actors, musicians, and others who perform in public will feel a surge of creative juices and can better relate to the audience. There is a showiness about this sign, and you may find that many people are more outgoing and effective in their dealings than usual.

### **MERCURY ENTERS LEO:**

**On Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:15 A.M. EDT** Mercury follows the Sun into this fixed sign. For a few weeks it may be difficult to change people's minds. All of the fixed signs tend towards stubbornness, and it may be easier to let things go than to fight them out. But each situation will require a diagnosis. If something is worth the battle, stand your ground. But if it's something that is more ego driven and not absolutely necessary you may be best letting it go for now. The Sun will conjunct Mercury today as well (see below) and you will find a lot of willfulness in people's communications.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

**Also on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:24 P.M. EDT** this stubborn and willful aspect completes. It's hard to avoid the confrontations that often accompany this conjunct. It's not as aggressive as the Mercury – Mars – Uranus aspects we had a week ago, and this usually isn't a violent or dangerous transit. It's just very demanding and assertive. You can expect a lot of communications and some stress, but if you deal with things directly and honestly you can use this to your advantage.

### **VENUS RETROGRADES:**

**On Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:29 A.M. EDT** Venus begins its backward motion. This is a difficult

period when romance and financial matter seem to lack logic. There is an internalization of this energy that makes it difficult to express your feelings. Misunderstandings abound, so don't assume your reaction is logical. You may have to ask someone directly what they mean. Don't suppose you are hearing them clearly. Financial matters may also prove hard to figure out, and this can cause a lot of problems in world markets as well as individual money issues.

### **MARS SQUARES URANUS:**

**Also on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:42 A.M. EDT** this very harsh and irritating transit will complete. The day or so surrounding this will require a lot of patience, something that will be in short supply. Any stress or tension that has been held in may come out under this aspect. People will be feisty and there may be a lot of anger underneath the surface. Keep your eyes open and watch out for any violent or explosive reactions. We are heading up to the Aquarius Full Moon on Friday and there may be a building up of tension that could come out without warning, so be careful. This is a very high energy transit, which can be used positively if it is focused in productive ways. But because of its erratic nature it can also get out of hand. This can also manifest as difficulties with computers, cell phones, and other technological devices.

### **URANUS RETROGRADES:**

**On Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:38 A.M. EDT** Uranus begins its yearly backward motion. This will internalize a lot of things, including our higher brain functions. There are often problems with computers and technology in general, and coming on the heels of Mars square Uranus mentioned above I would be extra careful with backing up files, protecting your electronic toys, etc. We may see some violent activity this week as we approach the Uranus ruled Aquarian Full Moon. Caution is always called for when Uranus is so activated, so keep your eyes open.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:43 A.M. EDT at 07 degrees Aquarius 56 minutes.** This can be the most explosive of Full Moons and with the Uranus activity this past week we should all tread lightly. While most of us will not have any serious problems, if this hits a sensitive point in your chart it may set off unexpected events or reactions from others. There will be a feeling of electricity in the air and if you pay attention you will see people overreacting to the slightest event or confrontation. Try not to get caught up in situations that either aren't really about you, or can be easily sidestepped. There is no reason for any conflict or alteration, but if there is you should be aware of the erratic nature of this energy.

### **VENUS ENTERS LEO:**

**Also on Friday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:27 A.M. EDT** love will take a decisively dramatic turn. Many people will feel the need to express their feelings in a public way, and there is some stubbornness with all the fixed signs. Try to hear what's being said not how it's presented. This can be a playful and very romantic placement so have fun with it.

### **SATURN GOES DIRECT:**

**On Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:53 A.M. EDT** Saturn finally turns around. We've been in a period of delays and frustration for several months. This should help get some projects off the ground that have been stifled, and remove some limitations in business and personal situations. It will take several days to see the results, but this will now be a better time to begin a new business or project. Issues of security and foundation will be easier to address as well, and many of us will find our efforts more on track. Saturn will square Jupiter tomorrow (see below) so there will continue to be a feeling of frustration and limitations for another few days.

### **MERCURY TRINES URANUS:**

**Also on Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:50 A.M. EDT** this positive aspect will allow us all to see and understand the bigger picture a little better. Thoughts and ideas will flow, and there is generally a clearer and more explicit communication. If you've been bogged down and unable to move your ideas forward, this and the direct motion of Saturn should help a great deal.

### **JUPITER SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:37 A.M. EDT** this difficult square completes. Jupiter wants to expand, while Saturn wants to contract. The best way to handle this energy is to move slowly and cautiously for a few days. Those born with this conjunction must learn that lesson to fulfill their potential. The same is true as we experience the transit. If there is a balance between growth and stability most things will work out to our advantage. If you rush or overextend, things will tend not to work out well. Also if you contract too much you will lose the stable and continuous expansion that this can provide. The relationship between these two planets is one of the most complex and difficult to get a handle on. But once you really understand how they work, the combination offers a great opportunity. The square is the most difficult aspect between the two, but it can be worked through in a very positive way. This will probably be a difficult week for the equity markets as Saturn will suppress the growth of Jupiter.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS JUPITER:**

**On Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:47 P.M. EDT** this very positive and cheerful aspect will give us all a short burst of enthusiasm and optimism. We experienced this transit on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but because of the retrograde motion of Venus we will have it a total of three times. The last pass will occur in October. Whenever we have a triple pass of any aspect it is an opportunity to learn from the combined energy of the two planets. In this case it's a question of using that hopeful attitude in a constructive way. There is a tendency to overdo things or indulge oneself too much in the pleasures of life. However, because of the Jupiter square Saturn mentioned above, we will also experience Venus square Saturn three times (see below), which will repressed some of the overly expansive nature of this and help keep it in a realistic and controlled way. Romance may be in the air for those whose natal chart is set off by this, but because of Saturn's influence it will be a more practical and pragmatic connection than we would normally expect when Venus and Jupiter are in contact. Use this day to relax and enjoy life a little. Work is always waiting for you around the corner. There's nothing wrong with playing hooky for a day and going to the beach.

### **VENUS SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:08 A.M. EDT** the other half of this transit completes. We are also experiencing this energy for a total of three times. The first was on July 14<sup>th</sup>, and the last will be October 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the antithesis of the Venus conjunct Jupiter mentioned above and will present us with a very sensible and realistic attitude. Where the Jupiter aspect may have made some things look rosy and expansive, this square will tend to exaggerate the limitation and restrictions in romantic and financial matters. Don't take things too seriously today. This will complete in a day, but because of the triple pass of this aspect this is a period of almost 4 months during which Venus will create the connection to both Jupiter and Saturn, and give us a chance to view this from different perspectives. It allows us to understand the combination of Jupiter's expansiveness and Saturn's restrictiveness as seen through Venus' influence. It's very personal, and will greatly affect our interactions with others. When the conjunct to Jupiter is in effect we may all feel more outgoing and sociable. When the square to Saturn is dominant it may create distancing between people. And many of us may feel isolated or withdrawn today. If you find it hard to express your feelings, that's common. Saturn can be a bit dour and its restrictive energy often internalizes whatever it connects to. In this case it can put up temporary walls between people. Again I repeat, don't take things too seriously today.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS & SQUARES SATURN:**



**Also on Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:25 A.M. & 4:19 P.M. EDT** Mercury sets off the Jupiter – Saturn square. Today our thoughts and communications will be limited and many will find it hard to get their ideas out. While there may be some disagreements on basic philosophical levels, this isn't argumentative so much as quiet and restrictive. If you can't say what's on your mind, just wait until tomorrow when Mercury conjuncts Jupiter and you should find it much easier.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS JUPITER:**

**On Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:09 A.M. EDT** we will all be chattier than yesterday. This month is offering us a unique opportunity to clearly see the differences between Jupiter and Saturn in very useful and obvious ways. If you're paying attention you should notice a marked variation in attitudes, ideas, and communications. Today you will find it easier to get your point across. You should also notice a livelier and more sociable atmosphere. This is a good day for any travel. A short drive or even a long walk will help lift the spirits and open your consciousness in an expansive way.

### **MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:**

**Also on Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 P.M. EDT** Mercury leaves Leo right after its conjunct to Jupiter and enters one of the signs we give it rulership over. Virgo does tend to be rather critical and a bit picky, but it's ability to see the smallest of details makes this placement very positive for any work that requires attention to the tiny facets that make up our lives. This can aid in many fields, including business, writing, lecturing, etc. Just be careful not to be overly picky or you may push others away. Get your work done for the next few weeks. You should find that you are more adept at seeing and fixing the little problems.

### **MARS ENTERS LEO:**

**On Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:33 P.M. EDT** Mars enters this fire sign. This planet feels more at home here than it did in overly emotional Cancer. But because Mars rules the ego you must keep an eye on how you present yourself. While this will allow many of us to express ourselves in a direct and less emotional way, it's very easy to be too assertive and pushy. It's a thin line between assertive and aggressive so be careful not to step over it. Where you may have been a little too watery in your romantic relationships last month as Mars went through Cancer, here you may be overly dramatic and possibly antagonistic. Don't start a war with your lover. Use this energy playfully and you will get more out of it.

## **JUPITER ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:13 A.M. EDT** our most expansive planet will enter this somewhat limiting mutable earth sign. Wherever Jupiter is transiting tells us what parts of our lives and society have the best chance of growth. While it was traveling through Leo there was an increase in many issues ruled by that fire sign. For example, Leo rules the stage, and Broadway shows have had one of their best years in history. But expansion isn't only about money and profits. Jupiter's true magic takes place within the individual or the collective consciousness. It's the ability to see how things fit into the bigger picture, and offers us ways to continue the expansion and inclusiveness our biggest planet represents. What will it do during its one year journey through Virgo? We may see growth in the book business as more attention is directed towards the written word. Because Virgo has much to do with details and the smallest of things, and Jupiter is all about the bigness of everything it encounters, we should see increases in how we deal with the smallest facets in our society. More attention will be paid to protecting things like our identities, which has become a nightmare as more and more hackers break into computers and businesses. In the past year there have been horrific identity thefts in Staples, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the U.S. government, and even baseball teams. Our banking system is terribly outdated, and we have finally begun to implement credit and debit cards with chips that help prevent copying. We're only about five years behind the European community in this manner. This is an example of how we will see more expansion in dealing with the little details. There will be many more.

## **MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**On Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:12 P.M. EDT** this very confusing aspect completes. This is a day or so of misdirection and mistakes. You must be vigilant and pay attention to all matters, big or small. Double check plans, and ask people to explain anything you don't fully understand. If there is any possibility of misunderstandings they will come out now. Make sure you are understood and that you understand others. Don't assume there is clarity. Chances are good that there isn't. Travel will cause all sorts of difficulties, so plan your trip carefully and make sure your directions and connections are set up properly.

## **THE SUN TRINES URANUS**

**On Thursday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:27 A.M. EDT** this positive trine will allow us to make changes without the usual resistance from the outside world. This only lasts a day and it's not going to alter the world much, but it's a good opportunity to make adjustments and tweak things so they work better. Ideas will abound, but because this completes so early in the morning you may miss its fullest effects unless you are an early riser.

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## **DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Friday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:53 A.M. EST at 21 degrees Leo 31 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](mailto: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.

July 16<sup>th</sup> 7:24 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

July 18<sup>th</sup> 5:41 P.M. – 8:47 P.M.

July 21<sup>st</sup> 6:06 A.M. – 9:23 A.M.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2:12 P.M. – 10:07 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 8 hours

June 26<sup>th</sup> 5:14 A.M. – 8:24 A.M.

July 28<sup>th</sup> 9:37 A.M. – 2:47 P.M.

July 30<sup>th</sup> 2:50 P.M. – 5:40 P.M.

August 1<sup>st</sup> 6:02 P.M. – 6:36 P.M.

August 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:35 P.M. – 7:24 P.M.

August 5<sup>th</sup> 7:29 P.M. – 9:39 P.M.

August 8<sup>th</sup> 12:46 A.M. – 1:40 A.M.

August 10<sup>th</sup> 7:45 A.M. – 8:08 A.M.

August 12<sup>th</sup> 1:44 P.M. – 4:52 P.M.

*VOC moons in the next lunar cycle:*

August 15<sup>th</sup> 12:36 A.M. – 3:46 A.M.

August 17<sup>th</sup> 1:16 P.M. – 4:23 P.M.

August 19<sup>th</sup> 10:56 P.M. – August 20<sup>th</sup> 5:24 A.M.

**July 2015**

**New York City**

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