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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

January 2015

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

I wish all my friends, readers, and their loved ones the very best holiday season and a wonderfully prosperous and healthy New Year. Especially in difficult times, we must embrace the things that mean the most to us and find solace and love wherever and however it comes. May you find your true path and loving companionship as you travel along life's highway. It's easy to have faith and generosity when things are going well. If you can be optimistic in the face of adversity and compassionate in hard times, you will have reached a level of humanity I have observed in dogs. Mitch

With the hacking of Sony Pictures and the cancellation of the release of *The Interview* we have entered a new age in terrorism. This is not a surprise to many of us. It was only a matter of time before the cyber-wars began. This is not the last attack we will see, only the first. **Uranus rules technology and all computer-related issues. Pluto rules vengeance and hidden agendas.** The ongoing square between these two outer planets has resulted in this present situation. That square was within a degree of America's Sun, and so we were the victims of this. Pluto will continue to afflict our Sun until the end of 2015, and we can expect more computer-related problems to arise. But the rest of the world is also susceptible to cyber attacks. It's a new arms-race run not by generals and marines, but by technicians and nerds.

In my newsletters and media performances, including my last appearance on Coast to Coast in April 2014 I warned about the price of oil dropping precipitously. I said that the Ukrainian situation was all about oil, and that if the price of that commodity drops below about \$80 a barrel Russia goes broke. That's exactly what's happening. The ruble is in free-fall despite Russia's recent unprecedented rise in interest rates. I also predicted that Putin would be out of office within about 2 years as the planets in the Cardinal Grand Cross began afflicting his Saturn. I believe events are showing that the timing is right on target. The Russian oligarchy can't hold onto power in a society upended by deflation, a lack of goods, and a free-falling ruble.

Putin only has two choices. Either he continues along the path he was chosen, which will eventually lead to his removal from office, probably in a coup. Or he makes peace with the West and begins to repair his relationship with Europe and America, which will improve the Russian economy, but alienate much of his hard-line support at home. In either scenario his hold on power has diminished greatly and will lead to his

removal from office. It's just a matter of how and when, not if. As I've said many times in the past, as the planets that were involved in the Cardinal Grand Cross get closer to afflicting Putin's Saturn at 17 degrees Libra, his hold on that country will lessen and he will lose power. The first affliction will be Uranus square his Saturn in April 2015. The negative aspects of Uranus and Pluto will continue until December 2017.

So what about cheap oil? It's a catastrophe in the making. Not only does it devalue the ruble, the currencies of the Middle East countries, and all major oil producing nations, but it has residual side-effects we can't readily see. When oil is this cheap, it lowers the price of all commodities and sets up the potential for deflation. Luckily for the equity markets the Feds decided not to play their *inflation card* by hiking interest rates. That would be the natural and short-term way of dealing with something like this. But that would have crippled the markets and sent waves of panic through our 401K's right at the end of the year. But in the long run, if oil continues to be suppressed it will lead to a severe downturn in stocks and wages. America has once again become one of the biggest producers and exporters of fossil fuel. The world's supply is growing, while the world's economies are stagnating. And still they want to build pipelines and push every last drop of gas from the planet. What the frack? So we pay less for our gasoline and run to spend the savings at Walmart? How has that helped the middle class?

Also, with oil so cheap there is little reason for investing in alternative energy sources. The fact that we're poisoning the planet at a frighteningly escalating rate seems of little interest to the collective, as long as we save money. Capitalism is the ruination of humanity. (There I've said it.) This drop in oil prices is temporary. The market will bottom out and then the price will explode as the shorts get squeezed out. But the damage has been done.

The olive and olive oil business in Italy and Spain is in grave jeopardy because of climate change. Olives are the lifeline of the Mediterranean countries. It is a multi billion dollar industry that has seen such devastation this year from weather problems and blight that the price is expected to jump enormously. Thousands of acres of olive trees are unproductive, which will severely hurt these already economically stressed nations. This is the future of climate change.

This is a "new era" of international intrigue. It's no longer about bombs and missiles, but currencies and stock prices, oil and technology. **We have entered the age of the corporation – Aquarius.** And that is how the future will play out. Oh, there will be military confrontations for as long as humans separate themselves with jingoism and national identity, and certain hot-spots, such as the Middle East, will continue to confound and threaten the security of the world. But most of the battles will be fought through economics and control of the population through financial manipulation. **This truly is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius.**

As I said last month, restrictive Saturn will enter expansive Sagittarius on December 23rd 2014 and limit growth for the next 2 ½ years. This should seriously affect the equity markets. It isn't as dramatic as Saturn opposite Uranus that we had when the markets crashed in 2008, and it may not imply a crash. This transit just usually means a slow down in world growth and a limit to new and emerging markets and

expansion of all sorts. The last time Saturn transited Sagittarius was 1985-87. The stocks rose for a while, and then we had the crash of '87 followed by several years of sideways movement as Saturn was in aspect first to Uranus, and then when it entered Capricorn it was conjunct Neptune. It did not make more than a marginal new high until Saturn was done with that conjunct to Neptune in 1990. This time we will see it in square to Neptune as it travels through Sagittarius.

This will have a strong effect, especially on the banks and housing market. But so will the recent political events. After the collapse of the housing market in 2005, and the crash of the banks and equities in 2008, some changes were made in the banking and housing system to protect the consumer and create more visibility. But those changes have been watered down, or are in threat of being eliminated altogether by the incoming Republican-controlled senate and house. The recent budget bills that were passed included a reversal of many restrictions placed on the banking industry, allowing them to once again repackage bad investments, especially in housing, and resell them to an unsuspecting public. As a result, we are once again teetering on the edge of a collapse. Housing in America isn't recovering the way they would like you to think. Many homes are being bought by hedge funds as investments. Middle class Americans are not buying homes in the numbers necessary to warrant the optimism the numbers imply. Once again the banks will repackage mortgages as equities and secured loans and selling them to investors.

Our economy is improving, but the middle class is still besieged. The American housing markets are shaky, but the situation worldwide is much graver. China has built entire cities large enough to hold hundreds of thousands of people. The only problem is – nobody's moving in. They are empty shells complete with malls, parking lots, and all the amenities of a modern city. These are also being added to the so-called expansion of the Chinese markets, which are over-valued and will eventually crash in on themselves. The interest on the debts created by this overexpansion is huge and coming due. How vulnerable our financial markets are is based on how much has been invested in the Chinese housing market by western hedge funds and governments. **Saturn square Neptune** will expose the decaying underbelly just as the **Saturn opposite Neptune** did in 2005-2006.

Saturn will first complete the square to Neptune in November 2015. As we approach that aspect we will see signs in our personal lives and our society that many things aren't as strong or secure as we thought. Individuals will feel the effects of that square in personal situations and financial matters, especially if this square sets off your chart. You should act defensively in matters of finance and anything you value. Neptune's influence will create confusion and misdirection, and you may make some serious mistakes, or just not notice as things are dissolving before your eyes.

This month, because of the ongoing Uranus-Pluto square, The Sun and Mercury are creating difficult aspects to both of those outer planets. The period around the New Year is especially potentially dangerous. Caution is called for, and it's imperative to keep your eyes open. I expect some very violent and unsettling events right around that time.

This month's Full Moon on January 4th falls at 14 degrees 31 minutes of Cancer, exactly on America's Sun-Saturn square. This is within a degree of where the Cardinal Grand Cross hit in April 2014, and it represents a dangerous moment. We can expect more hostility and serious power struggles to emerge this month. This is also the exact point of Vladimir Putin's Sun at 13 degrees Libra 56 minutes. Putin's back is against the wall, as I expected by now. As I said above, he has only a few options. The most productive would be reconciliation with the West, but because of his personality that is a hard pill for him to swallow. The only other option would be to escalate the situation through the military, but that would only hasten his removal from power and create an atmosphere of tension and fear.

Mars is setting off the Saturn-Neptune square this month. This will be the beginning of a period of about a year of serious confusion and frustration that will play out as more terrorist attacks and misdirection. Both Saturn and Neptune will limit Mars' ability to respond. Saturn will limit Mars' actions and restrict the collective ego from acting in its best interests. Neptune will make it almost impossible for Mars to respond in a constructive and assertive way. The result will be an ineffectual response to violent actions and threats. Of course, these aspects will also limit the ability of all groups to respond in a war-like fashion, so many terrorists will be equally frustrated in their attempts at creating havoc. All of this will result in more tension and a lack of resolution to many issues being created on the world stage.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday December 21st at 8:36 P.M. EST at 00 degrees Capricorn 06 minutes.

Any astrological event that occurs at zero degrees cardinal is worth noting. This is called the *Aries Point* and it represents a new beginning in the zodiac. Every Capricorn New Moon is all about individual responsibilities as well as our collective sense of obligation to ourselves and the world. Because of it's placement at zero degrees this is even more so this month. It's a time to examine your projects, relationships, and attitudes, and see where you can make some changes. There are always worldly issues to content with, and it's no different now. But as the world's problems escalate at an alarming rate we are forced to redefine our priorities and aim our resources in a defensive mode. While this is a time of new beginnings, it will come with a serious attitude and a strong need to fortify our foundation.

SATURN ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Tuesday December 23rd at 11:33 A.M. EST. This is one of the more extreme changes of signs. Jupiter-ruled Sagittarius is all about growth, expansion, and pushing boundaries as far as they can be stretched. Saturn is exactly the opposite. It's the planet of restrictions, limitations, and creating a strong foundation with clearly defined boundaries. When Saturn enters this sign it begins a period of 2 ½ years when growth will be limited. This is a bear-market signal, and I fully expect that to be the case for a long time. This isn't the same thing as a crash. In order for the equity markets to crash we need a perfect storm. The 2008 catastrophe occurred when Saturn was in opposition to Uranus exactly on the NYSE Mars, which I give rulership to the 10th house of career and status. As a result, the markets had the worst crash in generations. This isn't the same thing.

This transit of Saturn will affect us individually as well. In our own lives there will be many projects and ideas

that may be perfectly sound, but if they aren't dealt with in a controlled and structured way, they will fail. The only way to successfully use this energy is in a slow and steady approach with patience and fortitude. It isn't a time to expand beyond your limitations, but rather to retract and work hard to secure the structure upon which we stand, and then to move slowly to the next level.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

On Wednesday December 24th at 8:31 P.M. EST Mercury will aspect Uranus & Pluto, which are in a square to each other at the moment. This is a very difficult aspect for communications and travel. You need to use caution in each case. Discussions can take a very sudden and unexpected turn, and you may find yourself in an argument or overwhelming dispute that you didn't see coming. People will be nervous and fidgety, and will say things without thinking them through. Your reaction to these moments will decide how difficult this transit and the one mentioned below will be. Remember, an event may be sudden, but its effects can be long-lasting.

While traveling you simply must use as much caution as possible, and pay attention to what's happening right in front of you. It's very easy to be distracted or for a momentary event to wreck havoc. The Sun will also set off these two outer planets this month (see below) and it is very important to act in a slow and controlled manner. Otherwise you can easily get swept up in events that are outside of your ability to control. Because this is Christmas Eve and many people will be on the road, extra care is demanded. We may see a holiday pile-up somewhere, or a huge storm hitting just at the worst possible time. We can expect some world events to occur.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Christmas Thursday December 25th at 1:52 A.M. EST this difficult and deep transit will complete. This will set up the interpersonal circumstances for the holiday. We can expect some power struggles and emotional tension. Of course the festivities often bring out a lot of hidden anxiety and depression. This year it may be worse than usual. This is a time to avoid as much stress as possible, but the only way to really sidestep it all would be to sit alone in your room. That's not going to happen for most of us, so go into this day aware and awake, and try not to give in to every little disagreement or dispute you encounter. You may be surprised at the depth of conversations that take place. The past will be looked at from a different perspective, and secrets will be revealed. The holidays often bring up issues from the past, and more so this year with these difficult, but enlightening aspects completing.

THE SUN SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

On Friday December 26th at 10:11 P.M. EST this positive sextile will come along. This isn't as powerful as the two aspects mentioned above, and there may still be some animosity lingering. If you can focus on this spiritual energy you may be able to direct some of your anger into empathy and create a more positive and productive atmosphere. This is a good aspect for all creative work, and if you've been struggling with a project or idea, this may help you break out of your rut.

MARS OPPOSES JUPITER:

On New Year's Day Thursday January 1st at 2:49 P.M. EST this jolt of high energy and assertiveness is present. This aspect can create a positive or negative reaction depending upon how it is handled. The main difficulty with this aspect is the lack of boundaries and structure it can produce. Mars rules the ego, and when it is in opposition to Jupiter we are all less likely to be concerned about rules and limitations. It's easy to act in an arrogant and rash manner, especially if this aspect hits your chart. The excessive energy this opposition will produce can be very positive if it's controlled and directed into projects and work situations. In personal relationships it will certainly make many of us more aggressive. How that aggression is displayed will decide if this is a powerful force for good, or just an ego gone wild. If this aspects your chart, caution is certainly called for. Try to focus this excessive power and use it to push your plans and ongoing projects forward. If left unattended it could come out as arguments and other displays of childish or temperamental actions.

THE SUN SQUARES URANUS:

On Saturday January 3rd at 3:40 A.M. EST this potentially dangerous, high-energy aspect completes. This is not a time to take chances, although rash and impulsive actions are common. Caution and restraint is called for, but most of us will not have the self-control necessary to avoid the potential pitfalls this can create. For a few days leading up to this, and following it, it will be easy to overdo things. The demand for personal expression and individuality can easily be displayed as self-serving aggression and ego-fueled reactions. This follows the Mars-Jupiter opposition mentioned above, and coincides with Venus entering Uranus-ruled Aquarius, as well as the Sun conjunct Pluto later today (see below). So it's important to keep your eyes open and try to avoid direct conflicts and useless disagreements.

VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

Also on Saturday January 3rd at 9:48 A.M. EST Venus enters this most explosive of signs. We are surrounded by impulsive aspects that may push many people to overreact and create an unbalanced atmosphere. Venus in this sign tends to look for the unusual and impulsive, especially in personal relationships. If things have become dull in an ongoing connection, this may stir up the waters enough to fend off boredom. But it isn't a solid or stable placement, and you can expect the unexpected in your most personal relationships.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

Also on Saturday January 3rd at 6:32 P.M. EST this intense and powerful aspect completes. This aspect comes along once a year, and is usually a very difficult few days. It's even more so this year. This past week has been wrought with harsh transits that will test our ability to settle down and deal with things in an unemotional way. Many people will overreact to the slightest incident, and it's important to prioritize which events and challenges are worth responding to, or you may find yourself in many meaningless battles. If used introspectively we could all learn some valuable lessons about ourselves.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Sunday January 4th at 8:08 P.M. EST Mercury joins Venus in this erratic sign. For the next few weeks thoughts and communications will be fast and impulsive as we try to keep up with the quickened pace of things. Because of the speed with which ideas will come to us, it's easy to lose track, which could result in mistakes and confusion. This is a placement of genius, and if you are able to control the accelerated rate at which information is presented, you could come up with some very clever and unusual ways of looking at your situations and problems.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday January 4th at 11:53 P.M. EST at 14 degrees Cancer 31 minutes. This Full Moon is within a degree of America's Sun-Saturn square, a dangerous point at the moment. Because this is about where the Cardinal Grand Cross was in April 2014, it may represent another series of violent and perilous actions. Cancer is the most emotional of the 12 signs, and every year at about this time we must contend with the Full Moon in this water sign. This year the effects may be quite dramatic. In our personal lives there may be situations that require a great deal of control as emotional events create more problems than usual. In world event we will see more traumas, terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, and a deepening financial worry. Use caution for a few days around this Full Moon, and try to examine your own situations to see where there may be a crisis of faith. Try to keep your emotions in control or they may become explosive and create difficult circumstances that will have long-term effects.

MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:

On Monday January 5th at 5:21 P.M. EST this positive and useful sextile will give us a moment of realistic thoughts and a clearer idea of what's going on. This is a quick moving transit, so don't expect too much to get done. But it is a day of serious thoughts and exchange of ideas that may help us make some important decisions. Mars is about to enter Pisces (see below), which will begin a period of even more confusion and misdirection. Today you should try to be as honest and forthright as you can be.

MARS ENTERS PISCES:

On Monday January 12th at 5:21 A.M. EST the god of war enters this mutable water sign. This is not a good placement for any military actions, and anyone who attempts to provoke an aggressive act will be the loser. This is similar to starting a war with Mars in retrograde, which history has shown to be a losing proposition. More major sea battles have been fought with Mars in the water signs than anywhere else, as any student of astrology would expect. And there is the possibility of an event taking place on the seas. But again, I don't expect this to be the beginning of World War III. I do expect some confusion and mistakes to take place in the explosive areas of the world, including Ukraine. As I said in Author's notes above: Mars will square Saturn and conjunct Neptune this coming week (see below) and begin a period of about a year of serious confusion and frustration that will play out as more terrorist attacks and hidden agendas. We will all feel the frustration of these Mars transits, and the more aware you are of the underlying feelings, the better you will be able to handle them in a productive way.

VENUS & MERCURY SEXTILE URANUS:

On Tuesday January 13th at 3:12 P.M. & Wednesday January 14th at 5:25 A.M. EST these two inner planets create positive aspects to Uranus. Neither of these is particularly powerful, but they do have a productive quality about them. Sextiles and trines much be used proactively. You can't just sit back and wait for them to affect you; you must make an effort to use this energy to your advantage. Look for unusual and different ways of looking at your life and your problems. Seek out people and ideas that are unlike your normal approach and you may find a new way of handling an ongoing situation. Communication is very important, and how you get your point across will have much to do with the outcome.

MARS SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday January 15th at 1:11 A.M. EST this difficult aspect comes along. This is a very frustrating and limiting event that will quell any military actions that are ongoing. If that Full Moon has resulted in violent activity, this square should end or severely curtail the action. In our personal lives, this is not a good day for assertiveness or acting the aggressor. Although this can be an exasperating and annoying energy, you'd be better off going with the flow and not fighting against the limitations it produces. That would only serve to exacerbate the situations and would have little effect on the outcome. Wait a few days until this passes and then you can act out your aggressions and push your projects and changes forward. To attempt to do so now would only make you look overly antagonistic and you will lose in the end.

VENUS OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Monday January 19th at 8:44 A.M. EST this positive aspect comes in the midst of the Mars transits to Saturn and Neptune. This is a pleasant and easy-going transit, but it isn't nearly as powerful as those Mars aspects. Still, if you can get away from things for a little while this will be a respite in the ongoing aggression being played out in the world. Take a short trip somewhere and rejuvenate your batteries. The world is in a mess, and many of us will feel those difficult transits in our personal lives. You must find some solace in nature, or in a positive relationship. Otherwise it may all become too overwhelming for many to handle. This isn't a high energy aspect, and can produce feelings of laziness and lethargy. It's a good day for mediation, physical pleasures, good food, and companionship. Sometimes just knowing that you're not in this mess all alone can go a long way towards resetting your optimism and faith.

MARS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

Also on Monday January 19th at 7:09 P.M. EST this very complicated aspect completes. Confusion reigns supreme, and it's exceptionally difficult to be pushy or overly aggressive. Anyone who tries will fail. The best way to handle this aspect is with compassion and empathy. A problem on the water is possible, and all seagoing transports, such as cruise ships, pleasure boats, freighters, or even military vessels are open to attack. But the aggressor will lose in the end. That may be of little solace to those who are caught in the middle. I would avoid all such situations until this passes.

THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Tuesday January 20th at 4:44 A.M. EST we enter this most erratic fixed air sign. This is the most explosive of the 12 astrological signs and requires even more attention. This is the dark of the moon, which represents the end of matters. That doesn't mean that now everything is okay, just that there will be a sense of completion of some things, and the beginnings of new situations and problems that will demand our awareness. Because this is a fixed sign it represents that period of winter that is often most harsh and unyielding.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday January 20th at 8:14 A.M. EST at 00 degrees Aquarius 09 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.

December 22nd 10:17 P.M. – December 23rd 9:52 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

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December 25 10:11 A.M. – 11:07 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

December 27th 10:44 A.M. – December 28th 1:35 A.M. ***Moon is void all day

December 29th 7:46 P.M. – December 30th 5:56 A.M. ***Moon is void all night

January 1st 7:19 A.M. – 12:09 P.M.

January 3rd 6:55 A.M. – 8:08 P.M. ***Moon is void all day

January 4th 11:53 P.M. – January 6th 6:03 A.M. ***Moon is void 1½ days!!

January 8th 12:04 P.M. – 5:58 P.M.

January 10th 10:45 A.M. – January 11th 6:57 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

January 13th 4:46 A.M. – 6:44 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

January 15th 6:52 P.M. – January 16th 3:01 A.M.

January 17th 2:25 P.M. – January 18th 7:04 A.M.

January 19th 5:51 A.M. – January 20th 7:59 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

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

January 21st 8:45 P.M. – January 22nd 7:48 A.M. *** Moon is void 12 hours

January 23rd 6:13 A.M. – January 24th 8:31 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

January 26th 9:23 A.M. – 11:37 A.M.

December 2014 New York City

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