

MONTHLY SINCE 1999

ISSUE # 192

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

May – June 2015

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month we have the Sun, Mercury, and Mars all traveling through Gemini. Because Neptune is transiting Pisces now, all three will create a square to that confusing planet. We will all need to be on our toes and avoid the misunderstandings Neptune often creates. Communications, egos, and our general sense of action will have moments of misdirection and a lack of clarity. It's most important to double check all things and make sure you are understood and that you understand what others are saying.

Neptune is very much the energy of the moment. The inner planet aspects to it that we will experience this month will give us a taste of what's coming. As we continue to approach the Saturn-Neptune square this coming fall we are seeing the sideways motion of the stock markets that I predicted. We may see rallies this summer, and dips. Neptune is quite unpredictable when it comes to material issues. It can dissolve the very foundation upon which we rely, or create a severe illusion that can seem quite real, but have devastating effects once the fog is lifted. Some of the most expansive economic bubbles throughout history have been a result of Neptune's influence. This summer I expect a volatile and uncertain market, but not a crash of any sort. When Saturn retrogrades back into Scorpio this month (see below) we may see some intense trading sessions, and the markets could have a very tenuous summer. As they used to say on Wall Street: *Sell in May and go away*. That hasn't been the case for the past few years as the markets regained much of the losses experienced in 2008. Of course, the numbers do not reflect the still struggling middle-class, or the extreme international issues in play. But then, the stocks run on psychology, not reality. The first possibility of serious trouble in the financial world will be in September when Saturn reenters Sagittarius, or more likely in November when that Saturn-Neptune square completes for the first time. That will involve the housing market, international trade, and banking.

Bitcoins continue to make the news. If there ever was a clear example of a Saturn-Neptune influence it's this symbol of the modern internet world; a currency that is backed by no nation, government, or bank, is not openly traded against other currencies, and has virtually no value outside of a loose barter system of exchange. Yet according to the New York Times, in Argentina bitcoins are rapidly becoming the currency of choice against a collapsing peso. It's illegal in that country to convert the peso to other monies, but its value has decreased to such a point that the exchange into this virtual cash is predominant. There are a number of countries facing similar situations. It's very likely that as we experience this Saturn-Neptune square for the next year we will see some rather interesting and controversial issues regarding money come to the surface. Bitcoins are one and as more companies and governments accept it as legal tender will it herald in a new

age of commerce and exchange, or prove to be quicksand that may bog down businesses and the banking industry? With the stability of the world (Saturn) being afflicted to the master of illusion (Neptune) I think I know where my vote lies.

Mercury retrogrades this month in Gemini, the sign of its rulership. All retrograde Mercury periods are a nuisance and cause difficulties in communication and transportation, but this time will be a doozy. Because it is transiting Gemini the influence will be stronger than usual and directly involved trains, planes, and automobiles. Computers and all sensitive information networks are at risk. You should back up all important documents and double check everything that you send out. Misunderstandings will abound, but a lot of situations that have been stuck in limbo will come to a head. This will be a month of endings and a feeling of frustration as we await the new beginnings. Try to have patience and don't push things too hard and too fast. Make your statement and then let the dust settle before you rush into something new.

The horrific recent train wreck outside Philadelphia occurred while Mercury was in the *shadow phase* of its retrograde. It's almost unbelievable that these crashes continue, but it has opened up the contentious issue of government spending for the common good. It is unconscionable that we allow these catastrophes to go on unabated, and that congress continues to delay any serious solution. The collapsing infrastructure in our country is rapidly becoming a self-destructive crisis. We are so far behind many other industrial nations in rebuilding our road and rail networks that it will take decades and trillions of dollars to become competitive. That's a terrible shame. America used to be the world leader in such things. But we have fallen deeply since our heyday of the post World War Two world. When politics dictate the direction a nation takes, it is the will of a few, not the many, that decides where we are headed. A massive rebuilding of America would create many high paying jobs and stimulate our economy as it was done in the 1950s under Eisenhower, when most of our highway system was created.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Monday May 18th at 12:13 A.M. EDT at 26 degrees Taurus 56 minutes. Once again we have a Void of Course New Moon. As I said last month, when the New Moon is VOC many things we attempt during that lunar cycle will have the sense of being unattached that we feel under any void moon. That doesn't mean that we can't get things done, but there is often difficulty in completing things or finding their true significance and purpose. It will require more concentration and a clearer idea of what the end result should be.

Because Taurus rules the 2nd house its purpose has much to do with what we value. This will be an underlying theme this month, and many will find it difficult to put a clear price on our objectives. What is the real goal behind your actions? Is it truly doing you good, or just distracting you from your important issues. With focus and patience you can accomplish what is necessary. If you expect things to go a bit askew you will be better prepared to adjust your actions and attitude and can avoid much of the potential difficulties.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

Also on Monday May 18th at 9:50 P.M. EDT the winged god begins it's thrice yearly backward trip. As always, this is a time that requires more focus and concentration. You shouldn't sign important documents or put finalized plans into action unless you have no options. Just because you begin something under this transit doesn't mean that it will necessarily fail. It only implies that communication and understanding will be muddled and you must double check everything, no matter how small the detail. That is, after all, where the devil lives. Because this retrograde takes place in Mercury-ruled Gemini its effects could be even more difficult than usual. The horrible Amtrak train wreck occurred while Mercury was in its shadow phase. We can expect more problems now that Mercury is retrograding. But more to the point, we will be deeply involved in the conversation about the rapidly decaying infrastructure of America. While mercury is going backwards the world slows down and we have an opportunity to focus on the important issues at hand. This is true in our personal lives as well as in the collective. Congress is about to vote to sharply cut funds from the already underfinanced Amtrak despite the obvious need to shore up this company and upgrade our rail system for the security and productivity of the American people. We are so far behind other industrial nations and facing the worse catastrophes as our aging bridges, highways, and rails continue to collapse. That's the conversation that should be conducted during this retrograde.

THE SUN ENTERS GEMINI:

On Thursday May 21st at 4:45 A.M. EDT we enter the mutable air sign. As the Sun travels through each of the mutable signs it is a period of change and diversity. There is less stubbornness than in the fixed signs, and also less interest in projecting to the future that the cardinal signs imply. This is a period of reversals and attitudinal adjustments that may surprise you. Now the atmosphere will begin to change from spring into summer. This month will have a lot to do with communication in general. The Sun conjuncts retrograde Mercury on May 30th in Gemini, and as we lead up to that moment many issues will show themselves. Expect secrets to be revealed, and attitudes that may have been hidden to come to the surface. Keep an open mind and try not to be too obstinate or inflexible no matter what your nature is like. You may not feel the same way tomorrow that you do today.

VENUS OPPOSES PLUTO:

Also on Thursday May 21st at 9:54 P.M. EDT this tough aspect comes along. This is a day of obsessions and compulsiveness, especially in relationships. You may not feel much like finding the middle ground, and you could reject a perfectly good decision just because of the underlying attitude of compulsion. This is a day to dig deeply into any connection, but try to be open-minded. With the Sun, Mercury, and Mars all in mutable Gemini it's a time to bend more and find flexibility. Compromise would be the best way to handle it, but today that may be asking too much. With the Sun about to oppose Saturn tomorrow this will be a few days when people will tend to be stubborn and unbending. If possible delay important decisions until this passes. Then look at the situation from a new perspective.

THE SUN OPPOSES SATURN:

On Friday May 22nd at 9:35 P.M. EDT this difficult and restrictive aspect completes. This is a time of testing

and challenges that will require most of us to view our lives and prior decisions with a clear and honest eye. If something isn't working out you'd be better off admitting it and moving on to another situation. But Saturn does tend to limit our choices, and it can bring up a lot of fear. If you can be clear about what you need you can go after it. But if you are feeling threatened in some way, it may prevent you from make any decisions at all. It's often best to wait until these difficult aspects pass before coming to a conclusion. If you don't have a choice, then at least try to recognize that things aren't nearly as bad as they may seem. There is a tendency to only see the negative side of things when Saturn is in play.

VENUS SQUARES URANUS:

On Monday May 25th at 1:09 P.M. EDT romance will take a sharp turn towards the bizarre. This square can produce sudden infatuations and a desire for the unusual. Many people will be easily bored and could seek out much different situations than they would normally consider, especially if this square sets off the natal chart. This is a day to look for excitement, but recognize that there may not be much stability underneath. Don't limit your options, but also don't make any commitments while this is in orb. Once it passes the infatuation may also disappear. Because Mars is in square to Neptune today as well (see below) there will be much confusion and a sense that reality isn't what you thought it was. This will be a day of some excitement and weirdness, so keep your eyes open. It's a good day for anything creative. Take in something unusual, such as a modern art exhibit, avant-garde music, or anything that stretches your imagination.

MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Monday May 25th at 7:39 P.M. EDT this difficult and at times debilitating aspect completes. There may be a feeling of lethargy in the air, and many of us will not have the usual physical strength we are used to. If this square sets off your personal planets you may feel tired and unmotivated. Egos will be fragile, and it will be easy to offend someone without meaning to. Energy levels will be low, and you may even feel mildly ill. But this will pass quickly and unless Neptune is afflicting your chart in a serious manner you should regain your strength in a day. This can produce fevers, headaches, or allergic reactions. If you're tired, just rest and don't push your body beyond its capabilities. This is often a very bad day in the equity markets. There isn't the energy to push things forward, and the markets tend to overreact to any bad news.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Wednesday May 27th at 6:37 A.M. EDT we will all be speaking with more force than we realize. This is a day fraught with arguments and disagreements, so be careful how you communicate with others. An off handed text or statement may be blown out of proportion and lead to an unnecessary dispute. Use caution while traveling, and if you're feeling angry it would be best not to get behind the wheel of a car. Accidents are very possible and would be a result of ego tension and unrestricted rage.

MERCURY SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Friday May 29th at 2:59 A.M. EDT our communications will take a much more passive role and it may be difficult to get your point across. You won't have much oomph behind your speech, and confusion or

misunderstandings will abound. This is also a difficult day for the financial markets. The bonds in particular could react to bad news in an over inflated manner. Caution is again called for while traveling, but it would be more a matter of misdirection or errors. Accidents are less likely than under the Mercury conjunct Mars mentioned above, but it will be easy to be distracted and that could result in a serious problem.

THE SUN CONJUNCT MERCURY:

On Saturday May 30th at 12:56 P.M. EDT we will all be more willful and communicate with a lot of energy behind our speech. While this isn't as forceful or dangerous as the Mercury conjunct Mars we saw on Wednesday, it still will require some attention and restraint. This is a better day for travel, and if you can take a long walk, a drive in the country, or any other type of short journey it will be fulfilling and may open your mind up to new possibilities.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday May 31st at 9:08 A.M. EDT this very difficult and debilitating square will come along. Because the Sun, Mercury, and Mars are all transiting Gemini now they will aspect each other, and subsequently, square Neptune, which is transiting Pisces. Today will be a low energy day and you shouldn't push things too hard. If this square sets off your chart, you may feel rundown, tired, or even a bit ill. I wouldn't worry unless there is already an underlying problem. Wait a day until this passes and see if your energy level rises to its usual pace. This is often a very bad day for financial news. Because this precedes the Full Moon on Tuesday, we may hear some disheartening or confusing news that could affect the equities in a negative way.

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FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Tuesday June 2nd at 12:19 P.M. EDT at 11 degrees Sagittarius 49 minutes. This will be an interesting Full Moon. Sagittarius likes to blow things out of proportion and can make mountains out of molehills. But it can also produce a feeling of exhilaration and excitement. Of course it's quite possible that the excitement can also be over the top and out of proportion to the events. Because of all the solar aspects that surround this Full Moon, especially the Sun square Neptune mentioned above, this could be a confusing time with much misdirection. We all need to use caution this week and make sure that we understand what is going on. Mistakes will abound, and a small misunderstanding can be blown up to extremes. So try to keep a good perspective. This should be a very volatile few days in the stock markets.

VENUS ENTERS LEO:

On Friday June 5th at 11:33 A.M. EDT romance will take a theatrical turn. You may experience some dramatics in your relationships, and many people will want to project their personal stuff onto the world stage. If you are so prone, then enjoy it. But if you're a private person who prefers to handle things quietly, you must be careful where and how you have exchanges with others. This can be a very fun placement, and there will be no lack of excitement. The fire signs like to do things, and there will be a lot of activity. This will be a very creative period, and if you're involved in any artistic endeavors you should have a lot of energy for the

projects.

MARS SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Friday June 5th at 7:38 P.M. EDT this ego friendly transit will add a lot of push to your personality. This is a high energy day when it should be easy to express yourself and interact with others. The sextiles and trines must be used proactively or they pass as a pleasant but unassuming day. If you aim this energy into project or relationships you can accomplish much in a short time. This is a sociable and outgoing transit, and you should plan to spend time with your closet people. There is a tendency to act arrogantly or pushy when these two planets are in contact, but with a little self awareness you can avoid overacting and turn that arrogance into a positive assertive attitude that will be quite productive.

VENUS TRINES SATURN:

On Saturday June 6th at 2:23 A.M. EDT a realistic energy will help put relationships into perspective. This is a good day for analyzing your closest connections and setting goals. This is a pragmatic aspect that sees things clearly. But with any Saturn influence, even a positive trine, there is a tendency to view the difficult side of things more prominently. Be honest with yourself about relationships, finances, and plans. But see the growth potential and don't limit your possibilities. There's a series of positive and expansive aspects coming over the next few days and many opportunities will present themselves. Wait until Mercury goes direct on the 11th before setting things in motion. You don't have all the information necessary to make a proper decision.

THE SUN SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Monday June 8th at 5:56 A.M. EDT this very positive aspect will give us all a jolt of enthusiasm and optimism. This will be felt more strongly the night before and in the wee hours, and even though it completes early in the morning it will set the energy for the entire day. Plan something social. Any form of entertainment will be fulfilling. This is a good day for travel, group activities, or anything educational, so try to take advantage of it. It's a day to look at the bigger picture and not get lost in the details. You can focus on the small things later.

MARS SEXTILES URANUS:

On Tuesday June 9th at 3:29 A.M. EDT this extremely energetic and outgoing transit will be present. From the night before until midday we will all be looking for new and exciting adventures. Don't stick to your usual routine or you will be bored. Get outside the box and look around. The universe has amazing things to offer and today you will be more apt to embrace them. We need the unusual, the stimulating, and the exhilarating. Keep an open mind and you may discover something new. This is a high energy aspect, and the morning will be particularly electric.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

On Wednesday June 10th at 5:30 P.M. EDT the feeling of excitement will continue today. This is another Uranus transit that will stir up the waters and offer some unusual and thrilling moments. It's important to keep

your eyes open and see all the possibilities. Because we are having so many enthusiastic aspects now, we may see a surge in stock prices and other positive indicators. Mercury is about to go direct tomorrow, and a lot of information that has been delayed will come out.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Thursday June 11th at 6:33 P.M. EDT Mercury finally goes direct. This has been a complicated and confusing retrograde with a great deal of force behind communications and plans. Now as Mercury turns around some truths will be revealed and situations that have been delayed will start to move forward once again. This retrograde was in Mercury ruled Gemini, which has added even more complications and stress. Misunderstandings and lost communications have created difficulties beyond the normally annoying retrograde. So now we can all expect some surprises and revelations. Use caution for a few days until we get used to this change of direction. Otherwise there is a good chance of mistakes and more complications. We often see accidents and travel difficulties as Mercury changes direction, so leave extra time, be cautious, and pay attention to what you're doing at the moment.

NEPTUNE RETROGRADES:

On Friday June 12th at 5:09 A.M. EDT this strange and often misunderstood planet goes backwards. This is actually a good transit for creative people, doctors, and others involved in Neptunian subjects. There is an internalization of its energies, and it's not usually a good time to present a piece of art to the world. But it is a good time to dive into the project and make it better. When Neptune turns back around in November the work will be ready and make a bigger splash in the world.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Sunday June 14th at 11:56 A.M. EDT this potentially explosive aspect demands our attention. This is another high energy transit, and if it's focused into positive directions it can be extremely productive. But it often creates anger and feelings of frustration. If you are feeling this way, be aware and use caution when talking to others or traveling. Egos will be very prominent, and a simple misunderstanding could result in a shouting match. Sidestep any unnecessary disputes and choose your battles with care.

SATURN ENTERS SCORPIO:

Also on Sunday June 14th at 8:38 P.M. EDT Saturn retrogrades back into Scorpio until September 17th right before the end of the lunar cycle. This is a very telling moment as we will revisit the issues we dealt with most of the past 2 years for one more examination. This summer offers us one more opportunity to clean out some distressing situations and to prepare for the coming period when Saturn goes back into Sagittarius. Things, ideas, and relationships that have outlived their usefulness will become obvious and it's time to weed the garden so that new things can grow. We still have some issues to complete that have been in our lives since Saturn entered Scorpio in October 2012. This is a last chance to examine things and make changes before Saturn returns to Sagittarius and we get caught up in a whole new stream of consciousness.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday June 16th at 10:05 A.M. EST at 25 degrees Gemini 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.

May 18th 12:13 A.M. – 5:27 A.M.

May 19th 1:57 P.M. – May 20th 9:56 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

May 21st 8:36 P.M. – May 22nd 5:42 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

May 24th 6:49 A.M. – May 25th 4:52 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

May 26th 10:21 P.M. – May 27th 5:42 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

May 29th 4:20 P.M. – May 30th 5:34 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

June 1st 7:01 A.M. – 2:39 P.M.

June 3rd 1:59 A.M. – 8:50 P.M. ***Moon is void all day

June 5th 6:54 A.M. – June 6th 1:02 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

June 7th 10:30 A.M. – June 8th 4:16 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

June 9th 2:08 P.M. – June 10th 7:14 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

June 11th 7:43 P.M. – June 12th 10:16 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

June 13th 6:06 P.M. – June 14th 1:51 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

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

June 16th 10:05 A.M. – 6:51 P.M. ***Moon is void all day

June 19th 1:52 A.M. – 2:23 A.M.

June 21st 12:09 P.M. – 12:59 P.M.

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New York City

(212) 726-3814

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