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

February/March 2015

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

This month we will see several important aspects complete. Jupiter will trine Uranus for the second time. The first was in September 2014. This will complete once more in June 2015. This is a positive and extremely useful aspect that allows us to expand our consciousness and our projects in proactive and new ways. The combination of these two energies can be used to find uninhibited new direction. It's a correlation between the two most freedom seeking luminaries, and will allow a new perspective to old problems. It is represented in part by the attempt at a ceasefire in Ukraine, whether or not it holds. The individual can use this force to seek new horizons and to find a path of least resistance, as trines like to do. But this second pass is overshadowed by the applying Uranus-Pluto square (see below). And it will be difficult to get things moving in the direction you know they should go. There is great resistance due to the square, and it will limit our ability to push towards a new beginning. First we must complete some unfinished business, and then on the last pass in June we will find it easier to make a new start.

Saturn will retrograde this month. While Saturn is going backwards it's necessary to pay strict attention to all business matters. It's not a great time to begin a new business, although there are many successful companies that have a retrograde Saturn in their charts. It's not a good idea especially if your business is a Saturn ruled one, such as real estate or construction. The retrograde will internalize the Saturn energy in a company the same way it does in an individual. Steps must be taken to ensure that the finances and structure of the company is in good shape. The staff hired to run it must have a sense of longevity and be given incentives to ensure that. The profits must be invested in secure and stable ways. And the expansion of the business must be done in a slow and methodical way, no matter where Jupiter lays in the business' birth chart. This is true for the individual as well. While Saturn is retrograde it's difficult to make headway in many career oriented projects. Don't push against the wind. Wait until it feels right and then give it all you've got. You may have to wait until August 2<sup>nd</sup> when Saturn turns around to accomplish some things you've already set into motion. It's better to wait for the right time than to force the issue and regret your decisions.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> Uranus will square Pluto for the last time. We've been dealing with this transit for the last 2 years, and with its final completion we should see a settling down of some issues. For one thing the price of oil will not be as volatile as it's been of late. We're already seeing the price begin to rise from its sudden drop. It will eventually settle into a trading range somewhere in the middle of its pricing. But the events that have taken place the last few years within the energy industry won't suddenly go away. There have been some horrific accidents involving fuel and its movement around the world. West Virginia was the scene of a devastating derailment setting at least nine cars ablaze and bringing demands for more safety measures. It

will also be used to promote the building of the Keystone pipeline, arguing that it's safer to transport oil below the earth than above. A foolish argument, when the real issue is eliminating the use of these fuels altogether. The explosion in California of an oil refinery is another example of the power of this square.

There is the start of a big change in our attitude towards fossil fuels that this square has brought to the surface. Very few can deny or ignore climate change any longer. Even most Republicans now admit that this is a real phenomenon and must be addressed. Of course we aren't about to just eliminate oil, coal, gas, etc. But there are movements that are growing stronger every day to limit its use and demand more investment into alternative energy. It's still grass-roots, and I'm not all that optimistic that the world will recognize the startling truth about the future, but in astrology we take the power of an aspect (hard or soft) and attempt to make use of it in the most pro-active way. We do this as individuals, and as a collective.

As the Saturn-Neptune square approaches we will see a number of reactions. It completes for the first time November 26<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Day! Interesting timing. One place that this year-long transit will affect is the housing market. Any weakness there will become obvious. Because the U.S. housing markets collapsed under the Saturn-Neptune opposition of 2006-7, this square will test the decisions and directions taken back then. That's how squares work. They will prod any changes made under a conjunct or an opposition to see if those changes are valid. If not, the square will bring a period of instability. We can judge what shape the housing market is in.

Another is in the banking industry where we can expect all sorts of difficulties, including more major hacking. In last month's newsletter I wrote the following:

*Another problem we may face under this Saturn-Neptune square will be in the banking industry itself. There may be a hacking of an American bank or two. Under the Neptunian influence distraction and misdirection can become a problem. If the banks are, in fact, hacked, depending upon the extent of the damage there could be a serious problem. Just imagine if J.P. Morgan Chase's computers were distorted or the information was wiped out. The chaos it would create could take years to sort through. Even if the backup systems worked, it would disrupt our commerce as individuals scramble to assess their personal losses and try to keep the bills paid. This is the focus of World War III, not huge armies crossing borders with tanks.*

Since I wrote this we've already heard of one well-coordinated group attack more than 100 banks in 30 countries. As much as \$1 billion has been removed from these financial institutions through ATMs cash distributions, and transferring money to false accounts. Because of Neptune's influence it will be difficult to identify the thieves or to stop them. They steal about \$10 million and then move onto another bank. By the time the bank realizes what's happened the thieves are long gone.

Our banking system was besieged during that Saturn-Neptune opposition in 2006-7 as well; however we weren't completely aware of it at the time. However, it was when Saturn entered Virgo, the sign of the auditor, that the truth became known. Now we will once again see what kind of shape our banks are in. Generally when Saturn and Neptune come in contact it's a difficult time. What we think of as reality (Saturn)

gets watered down and confused by Neptune's influence. At the same time our illusions, fantasies, and compassion (Neptune) becomes stifled under Saturn's restrictive powers. It's a difficult combination. But I know of a number of people born with the conjunct between these two diametrically opposite energies that are amazingly successful in their fields. If you use these two in a positive and proper way you can make reality (Saturn) out of your fantasies (Neptune) and achieve remarkable results. The square won't allow us that opportunity completely because its purpose is to test and push. But if we handle this period properly, in a few years when Saturn conjuncts Neptune there will be some wonderful opportunities to make advances in the world that would have been unbelievable a short time ago. Will we do that? I don't know. I like to consider myself an optimist, but I'm also a realist. If humankind wasn't so driven by greed and selfishness we could achieve tremendous results. We're fairly smart, and we have opposable thumbs. If we'd only take them out of our collective ass.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:47 P.M. EST at 29 degrees Aquarius 59 minutes.** As periodically happens, this is the second New Moon in a row in one sign. This time it's in Aquarius, and it is an opportunity to complete some issues that we began last month when the New Moon was at zero degrees in this sign. While I usually recommend trying to complete as many projects and plans as possible before a New Moon so we don't carry the energy of the waning moon into a new cycle, in this case that's not true. It's better to spend the extra time double checking whatever you've been working on and making certain it will withstand scrutiny and the challenges it will face in the future.

### **MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:**

**On Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:06 A.M. EST** our thoughts and communications will be stable and serious, but manageable. When these two planets are in aspect there is a tendency to only see the negative side of issues. But a sextile or trine allows us to use that energy in a proactive way, thus eliminating much of the stress and negativity.

### **MARS ENTERS ARIES:**

**Also on Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:12 P.M. EST** Mars comes home to roost in the sign of its rulership. There will be a lot of ego energy in the air until March 31<sup>st</sup> when it moves into Taurus. People will be quite assertive this month, especially in intimate relationships, and there will be an underlying sense of aggressive energy underneath. Because Venus joins Mars in this sign tomorrow, you need to be careful not to act in a pushy or demanding manner. It will be easy to overreact to any small slight or insult. There will be a lot of energy in general, and if it's aimed properly we can all get a lot done this month.

### **VENUS ENTERS ARIES:**

**On Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:06 P.M. EST** Venus joins Mars in this fire sign. Mars will have dominance (50 shades of Mars) because it rules this sign. Venus can feel a bit out of sorts trying to retain its femininity and receptivity while traveling through Aries. While Venus travels here you can expect a more aggressive

approach to love and some insensitivity as well. There is an inappropriate amount of male energy that can create a rough edge in relationships. Venus and Mars will conjunct on Sunday (see below) and some issues will come to a head, especially in intimate relationships. Also be careful with your finances. Venus rules money, and while traveling through this male-oriented ego-centric sign it's easy to lose track of budgets and overspend.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS MARS:**

**On Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:13 A.M. EST** the pairing of the male and female planets occurs. Because this takes place in Mars dominated Aries, it will be felt as an assertive and forceful energy, not a calm or sensitive one. Whenever these two get together issues of intimacy and interaction between the sexes come to the forefront. If you're in an ongoing relationship you or your partner may begin to express things in a more open and direct manner. This can be good for clearing the air, as long as some caution is taken in how things are said. Otherwise feelings may be hurt, especially if one of you has a weakly placed Mars or Venus. These people tend to rely on the receptivity of Venus to balance their own insecurity. But in this case Venus is less able to act that role, and therefore the person won't have their normal barriers to protect them.

### **SUN SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:56 A.M. EST** this rough aspect completes. This is a day of realism and concise thoughts. Use this day to examine all of your plans, ideas, and business ventures to see where there are gaps that could cause you difficulties down the line. It isn't a good time for important dates or for beginning a romance. Friendships that are based in reality or are business related should do quite well. Even an ongoing relationship could benefit from this square, as it will point out any weaknesses in a plan or path and could strengthen a marriage. But a new romantic encounter won't have the spark necessary to build upon and will probably not work out. We are not interested in anything frivolous or superficial, so don't waste your time on anything that doesn't have a purpose.

### **VENUS TRINES SATURN:**

**On Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:58 A.M. EST** we will all be more realistic about romance and partnerships for the next few days as Venus and Mars trine Saturn. Today is a good time to make a budget or examine your finances. You'll be pragmatic and see things from a practical point of view. Because this is a trine we can use the energy to our advantage and won't feel the pressure that comes with a conjunct, opposition, or square. But by the same token it's easier to ignore this entirely and not gain the benefits that can come with this aspect.

### **MARS TRINES SATURN:**

**On Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:09 P.M. EST** Mars completes the trine to Saturn. This isn't a very sociable or freeing energy. In fact, even though it's a positive trine, any combination of these two planets can feel stifled and limiting. This is a good time to get work done. Anything that requires long or arduous work will do quite well.

**THE SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

**Also on Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 P.M. EST** this very difficult transit will make our lives more confusing. You must double check everything and look for misunderstandings and misdirection. This is a weakening transit, and we will all feel it on some level. Those who tend to be insecure will probably be most affected by it, but we will all have a reaction. Don't rush to judgment. Wait for information to be verified. If you're confused and don't know what to do, do nothing. Clarity will come in time. This is usually a very bad aspect for the stock markets. We could hear some bad news, or, as often happens with Neptune, some incorrect information that could set off events. Once this passes the fog will lift and the truth will be revealed. If this sets off your personal planets you should watch your health and not exhaust yourself.

**MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS & OPPOSES JUPITER:**

**On Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:55 A.M. EST & 4:15 P.M. EST** Mercury will aspect these two planets respectively. Because of the applying Jupiter – Uranus trine that will complete Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> (see below), they will each be aspected by the inner planets as they approach this degree of the sign. These are both positive and useful transits. Thoughts and ideas will flow, and it's a good day to look at your long-range plans. Jupiter will help us all see the bigger picture, so don't be afraid to think large thoughts or expand your concepts. That's exactly what you should do. And with Jupiter in trine to Uranus now, it's an opportunity to increase many ideas and to seek a larger settlement to a situation.

**JUPITER TRINES URANUS:**

**On Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:27 A.M. EST** this wonderful trine completes. We've in the midst of a period of rapid growth and expansion, especially in technological issues. This transit is helping to hold up the stock markets when they look very bearish. It won't last forever, and once the Saturn – Neptune square starts to kick in it won't have as much effect. But for now we should all use this to seek out new information and adjust our perspective. Mercury rules the RAM of the brain, while Uranus rules the hard drive. We had this trine last September 25<sup>th</sup> 2014, and it will return once more June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015. On each pass you should explore new and unusual ways of looking at the world and your place in it.

**VENUS TRINES JUPITER & CONJUNCTS URANUS:**

**On Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:14 A.M. EST & 1:46 P.M. EST** Venus will now aspect both of these planets. The conjunct to Uranus will make for some very unusual encounters in romance and business, while Jupiter will expect some growth and exploration. Boredom is a problem for many of us, and this combination will ensure that we are offered new and exciting events and connections. But Jupiter and Uranus are the two most freedom-needing planets, so there may not be as much of a solid foundation as you may need or wish for. Take all relationship issues with a grain of salt, and enjoy the excitement. But you probably shouldn't put too much credence in everything you hear. New romances should be scrutinized and given enough time to prove their worthiness before you give too much of yourself to a new person.

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**FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:05 P.M. EST at 14 degrees Virgo 50 minutes.** This is a critical Full Moon that may have a strong effect on those with planets near 14 degrees in any of the mutable signs. Health issues are possible if your personal planets are set off, but only if there is something going on already. While this may result in a sudden digestive problem, it won't suddenly create a disease or anything more than a passing issue. Still, caution would be wise. Be careful where and what you eat, and try to avoid people with communicative illnesses. Also double check any paperwork or banking issues. Virgo is the sign of the auditor, and when it's active many of us have to deal with accounting problems. Be careful how you talk to others today. You may be more critical and demanding than you realize.

**THE SUN SEXTILES PLUTO:**

**Also on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:16 P.M. EST** this positive combination will allow us to work with others towards a common goal. This is a powerful sextile, as any aspect between the Sun and Pluto will be, but because it's a sextile we can mold the energy more readily and aim it where we wish it to go. This is a good day to ferret out information and get to the bottom of things.

**MARS TRINES JUPITER:**

**On Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:04 A.M. EST** this terrific trine comes along. Because this falls so early in the morning its effects will be more obvious the night before. Aspects involving the inner planets wane quickly, so by late morning we will be dealing with Mars conjunct Uranus and square Pluto (see below). But while this aspect is applying we will have the opportunity to direct our egos into expansive ideas. This is usually a very sociable aspect. Just be careful not to overindulge in food and drink. It's easy to want to keep the party going as long as possible under this influence.

**MARS CONJUNCTS URANUS & SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:57 A.M. EST & 6:37 P.M. EST** Mars will set off the last pass of the applying Uranus – Pluto square. This may be a very difficult day, and I strongly suggest caution and awareness. When Mars combines with either of these two outer planets there's a possibility of explosive or combative energy. When it's afflicted by both at once it could be very volatile and dangerous. Use common sense and don't put yourself in a situation where you could be injured, either physically or psychologically. Avoid direct conflict when possible. At the very least try to delay confrontations for a few days until this energy wanes. Egos will be fragile and short-tempered and you may not be able to defuse a situation once it starts.

**MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:**

**On Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:52 p.m. EST** the planet of thought and communication enters this ethereal sign. Conversations will take a strange path for the next few weeks. People will not be as rational as usual, and you should make sure you understand what's being said. Miscommunication and deception are quite common, so clarify things. This is a very good placement for creative work. Poets, songwriters, novelists,

photographers, and musicians will all be inspired as the winged god travels through this last sign of the zodiac. Of course you may find it difficult to focus your thoughts, but if you can work through that, you may create some deep and important work.

### **SATURN RETROGRADES:**

**On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:02 A.M. EST** this linchpin planet will begin its yearly trip backwards. This is not a good time to begin a business. While there are many successful companies that began under a retrograde Saturn, it's still better if possible to wait until this goes direct before opening the door to your new store. With Saturn in retrograde there will be issues about the longevity and underlying foundation of the business. Some of these problems may not show up for years, but you may find that the firm handling the retirement accounts of your workers isn't as structured as you thought. You might regret decisions you make now in the name of progress or fast-tracking the situation. But in later years you will recognize the mistakes you are making. If you must open a business now, pay strict attention to these issues and try to protect the stability of the firm against future decay.

### **MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:41 A.M. EST** this difficult aspect completes. This is a day of stilted communication when it's difficult to express yourself. This can be frustrating and quite annoying. Don't push against the wind. Wait until this passes before having that important discussion. Travel will be difficult as well. Expect delays. This may be the day the city decides to shut down your subway line for a much needed repair. However, they will probably screw up the alternative routes and make your life a mess. If this square hits your personal planets you will most likely feel like being alone today as much as possible. It passes quickly, so don't give it more power than it deserves. This coincides with the Uranus square Pluto mentioned below and will add another layer of stress that that incredibly difficult aspect.

### **URANUS SQUARES PLUTO:**

**Also on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:50 P.M. EST** we will see the final pass of this powerful and harsh aspect. We've been dealing with this square for several years now, and most astrologers are aware of its effects. Among other things, Pluto rules oil, and we've seen the price of "black gold" crash to about \$40 a barrel. Now it will begin to move up again, possibly spiking at a very high price. Hopefully now that this aspect is finally completing oil will settle once again into a trading range that will allow the world economies to adjust in a more realistic and functional way.

Some geo-political issues that have been plaguing mankind the past few years will come to a head. A few will begin to settle down, but others will expand and become an even bigger threat. The situation in Ukraine began on the Grand Cross in April 2014. There may be at least a temporary solution that will defuse that part of the world. The situation in the Middle East, particularly with Isis, will not just go away. But we may see some reactions from the world in general that will redirect how we cope with this problem. Iran's nuclear issues will also not go away. But how the Israelis and other nations attempting to prevent Iran from achieving their goals respond may also change radically.

**MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

**On Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:49 A.M. EST** this very confusing aspect completes. Because this comes along so early in the morning many of us will be spared the major brunt of it. But you can expect difficulties and misdirection in the morning rush hour. This could be a very bad day for the stocks due to some news that comes out. But double check any information you hear. Errors are common under this aspect.

**DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:36 A.M. EST at 29 degrees Pisces 27 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.

February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:47 P.M. – 6:48 P.M.

February 19<sup>th</sup> 6:01 P.M. – February 20<sup>th</sup> 6:13 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

February 21<sup>st</sup> 7:36 P.M. – February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:28 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:57 P.M. – February 24<sup>th</sup> 11:54 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours



February 26<sup>th</sup> 3:43 A.M. – February 27<sup>th</sup> 7:50 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 24 hours

February 28<sup>th</sup> 12:53 P.M. – March 1<sup>st</sup> 6:34 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 3:47 A.M. – March 4<sup>th</sup> 6:58 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

March 5<sup>th</sup> 1:36 P.M. – March 6<sup>th</sup> 7:52 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

March 8<sup>th</sup> 9:24 P.M. – March 9<sup>th</sup> 9:10 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

March 11<sup>th</sup> 3:46 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

March 13<sup>th</sup> 7:11 P.M. – march 14<sup>th</sup> 2:40 A.M.

March 16<sup>th</sup> 4:02 A.M. – 6:14 A.M.

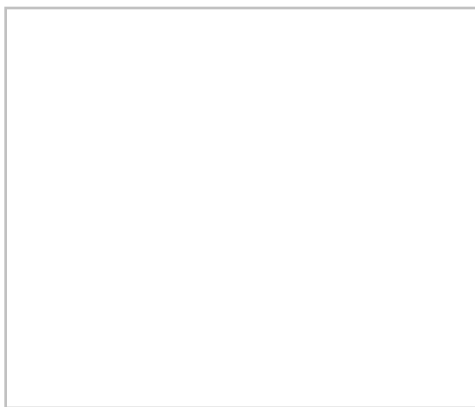
March 17<sup>th</sup> 2:18 P.M. – March 18<sup>th</sup> 6:58 A.M.

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

March 20<sup>th</sup> 5:36 A.M. – 6:28 A.M.

March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:51 P.M. – March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:40 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void 12 hours

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:40 A.M. – March 24<sup>th</sup> 9:22 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours



**February 2015**

**New York City**

**(212) 726-3814**

<http://www.mitcastro.com>

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