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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

September – October 2015

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The stocks remain volatile as the Chinese bubble continues to collapse. The double whammy of Saturn entering Sagittarius and then squaring Neptune is creating the scenario I have been writing about for the past year. We are entering a bear market, and most likely a recession. How harsh a period it will be remains to be seen. While America's economy is actually improving, and not in terrible shape, much of the rest of the world is in dire straights. China is leading the way with its devaluation of currency, haphazard expansion, and continued lack of transparency. It's the 2nd largest economy in the world, behind our own, and will recover in time. But what effects will this leave behind? Because China isn't subject to the kind of scrutiny much of the rest of the world is forced to confront, its government can do pretty much whatever it wishes without repercussions from an electorate. And since China appears to only be concerned with what affects its internal power, and has little regard for reactions in the globalized world markets, decisions will be made that favor that nation at the cost to most everyone else. Europe is facing a number of difficulties. Greece, Spain, and Portugal continue to be a drag on growth. The influx of countless refugees fleeing the Middle East is straining not only the economics of the continent, but also relationships within the European community as some countries openly take in these victims and others are building fences to keep them out.

This month Jupiter will oppose Neptune. While this can be an interesting and even positive aspect for creative ventures, it tends to hide the truth about financial matters and can be a major distraction preventing actions that are necessary to prevent an economic disaster. In November Saturn will complete the first square to Neptune. That is the reality we must face. But unfortunately whenever Neptune is involved there is confusion and misunderstandings. Saturn was in opposition to Neptune in 2006 – 2007 as the illusion of a solid housing market in America began to unravel and eventually lead to the crash of '08. Now seven years after that crash Saturn has returned to the square to Neptune, and the choices made in 2008-2010 will be tested to see if they are sufficient to prevent another catastrophe.

Restrictive Saturn will enter expansive Sagittarius where it will remain for the next 2 ½ years. Historically this is a period of lackluster growth and recession. I expect that to be the case this time as well. Because of the square to Neptune it may be a very harsh recession indeed. I'm hopeful that there is sufficient financial support underneath to prevent a crash or depression. And because of some decisions that were made seven years ago America may avoid the worst of it. But we rely on our interrelationship with other nations to continue to spur our economy. If there is no market for our exports, our economy will shrink as well.

The underlying problems, such as low wages, the vastly disproportionate distribution of wealth, a growing homeless problem, and the collapse of the middle class worldwide will continue to have serious consequences on the equity markets and further damage the beleaguered middle class as our retirement funds take a beating and our buying power is repressed. So much will depend upon who we elect to run the country in 2016. As history has shown, periodically there is a crossroads in an election year that defines our nation's direction for years to come. 2008 was one. This is another. The confusion and weirdness surrounding the coming presidential election is another example of the Saturn-Neptune square. There's nothing clear or obvious about the candidates, and we will see many more surprised before this is resolved.

We have two eclipses this month; a Solar Eclipse in Virgo, and a Lunar Eclipse in Aries. These two intense aspects will bring a number of issues to the forefront. There will continue to be decay in the Middle East as hundreds of thousands flee the violence perpetrated on the civilian population. Unless it is dealt with directly and realistically by an international force, we will continue to see vast numbers of refugees seeking shelter from the storm. A Full Moon eclipse in Aries, ruled by Mars, the god of war, threatens to escalate violent situations to a most dangerous level.

On my recent Coast to Coast appearance I discussed the 7 year cycles of Saturn and its affects on our financial markets. The interview is available on their website if you'd like to hear it. www.coasttocoastam.com

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday September 13th at 2:41 A.M. EDT at 20 degrees Virgo 10 minutes, and it's a Solar Eclipse. Eclipses are rather strange configurations. They've fascinated humanity for millennium and are imminently predictable. Several ancient cultures had mapped out the eclipses for centuries in advance. They are often considered a harbinger of hard times, and they can bring difficulties when they appear. To this day, modern astrologers look upon them as a time of stress. An eclipse blocks out the light. A Solar Eclipse will put pressure on the will of the individual and the collective. Many people experience a drop in their energy level and find it hard to push projects forward. Virgo is a very critical sign deeply concerned with the details of any situation. This is a time to examine whatever you're working on for any minor problems that are blocking its advancement. Virgo also has much to do with health issues and if there is an underlying physical or psychological problem it may come to the surface this month. Because eclipses always come in pairs we will have the Lunar Eclipse on Sunday September 27th (see that date below).

JUPITER OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday September 17th at 2:56 A.M. EDT this intense and confusing aspect completes. With the Saturn – Neptune square so prominent in our consciousness completing for the first time on November 26th this opposition will heighten the potential impact and expand the Neptunian illusion. It's a hard aspect to predict exactly, and with the equity markets so volatile the stocks could temporarily go either way. This week could be a very unstable and explosive period with more triple digit moves. The problem is that Neptune has little use for the "real world" and its interaction with Jupiter can create an atmosphere of either great elation or

tremendous fear. In your personal relationships you must use caution and try your best to be as clear and honest as possible. You could easily project a false front and create more confusion or misdirection. Be careful with all drugs, legal or illegal, and with alcohol. And be careful what you promise. You may mean it in the moment, but once this transit completes you could scratch your head and wonder just what you were thinking. Whatever happens around this aspect should be taken with a grain of salt. Remember, we define reality on a minute by minute basis and with this combination our sense of what is real will be at best an illusion.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

Also on Thursday September 17th at 2:10 P.M. EDT until October 9th at 10:58 A.M. EDT our favorite pain in the ass aspect comes back. As always I suggest great caution in many areas. Contracts, plans, travel, and communication will all be muddled and can bring any number of problems. If possible do not sign important documents or set deadlines that will be difficult to fulfill. If you are traveling you may have some issues with directions or making connections. But I have found that if you approach these Rx Mercury times with the proper attitude and respect they can be periods when we uncover the truth about things. When Mercury is in retrograde the world slows down, which will allow us to catch up. If you use that concept it will work to your advantage. Rather than trying to race ahead and do things in their normal pattern, you need to use this period to move in a careful and methodical way. The reason we suggest not signing documents or making final plans is because there is information that usually slips by the wayside when Mercury is direct, so you may be making decisions without all the knowledge you need. Pay attention to the details and see what's at the edge of your reality. That is where you may find the answers you have been seeking.

SATURN ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Thursday September 17th at 10:47 P.M. EDT Saturn returns to Sagittarius for the first time in about 26 years. It will remain in this sign for the next 2 ½ years. Saturn is the most restrictive of energies while Sagittarius and its ruler, Jupiter, are the most expansive. The combination will put pressure on many issues that are judged by their growth potential. The most obvious is the stock markets and world economy. I've been writing for some time that I expect a bear market and most likely a recession as Saturn travels through this sign. Once again it's a matter of how you go about approaching this period. If you're looking for homeruns all the time, you will probably fail. But if you can grow slowly and steadily during this period you will be able to move things along with great success. Those who allow the river to guide you rarely capsizes. While those who fight the river currents often have trouble. Take things in a slow and directed way and don't try to rush. The expansive nature of Sagittarius isn't really at odds with the careful painstaking attitude of Saturn. They just need to be worked together as a single unit in order to achieve your goals.

VENUS TRINES URANUS:

On Tuesday September 22nd at 1:59 P.M. EDT we will find some excitement and unusual activity in our relationships. Because this is a positive trine the energy will be more easily manipulated to our advantage. Look for something different and exciting in your partnerships. You may find just the spark to rekindle your romantic side. Financial matters will temporarily take on a positive turn, but it is only a short period of

expansion. We are in a long period of limited growth, so don't expect too much. This is a day for adventure and fun. Try to enjoy it.

THE SUN ENTERS LIBRA:

On Wednesday September 23rd at 4:21 A.M. EDT we enter autumn. Libra is ruled by Venus and is interested in the interaction between people. Many people begin new relationships while the Sun is in transit here. It's a time to begin preparations to settle in for the long winter. The desire to balance things is why Libra is given that sign of the scales for its image. How well we can create equilibrium will decide what the next month will be like. If things are too off-kilter we will all feel the instability and lack of foundation. But if you can settle things down in your personal life, you should be able to withstand whatever the world is going through. This is a time when relationships are often tested, both on a personal level and a collective one. On an international level this will also be a testing of many relationships between nations.

THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Wednesday September 23rd at 2:36 P.M. EDT this steady unwavering aspect will give us a day or so of stability and relative calm. It only lasts a day, so use it to forward your agenda. It's a good day for any paperwork or for going over your ideas and looking for any weakness or mistakes. Plans made under this transit will have a strong foundation and growth potential. It's a good day to discuss long term goals or for solidifying a partnership or business. It's not a very flamboyant aspect, but the effects can be long lasting and help you down the road.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Thursday September 24th at 6:32 P.M. EDT many of us will be compulsive and overly assertive. It's possible to speak with a harsher tongue than you realize. Pay attention to how you communicate. It's often how we say things that matter more than what we say. Pluto has a strong desire to get to the bottom of anything. That's fine as long as you're aware of this tendency. Nothing superficial will suffice, and it's easy to overdo something in the desire to reach that elusive perfect truth. Others will be just as ready to argue or fight things out, so choose your battles carefully and sidestep the unimportant ones. Otherwise you'll spend the day disagreeing with everybody, which is a waste of energy.

MARS ENTERS VIRGO:

Also on Thursday September 24th at 10:18 P.M. EDT the god of war enters this detail oriented sign. Virgo is Mercury ruled and while Mars is in transit here many people will be feistier and more apt to argue. Fights over the smallest of issues can blow out of proportion. This month is all about communication. With Mercury in retrograde and Mars in this sign it will be difficult to avoid all conflicts. But again, try not to confront everything that is offered. Otherwise you'll do nothing but quarrel.

PLUTO GOES DIRECT:

On Friday September 25th at 2:55 A.M. EDT our distant cousin finally begins its direct motion. Many truths

that have been hidden will be exposed now. Because of the Rx Mercury there could be some surprises as knowledge is unveiled. You must be ready to face whatever comes out now or you'll find yourself overwhelmed by the very truths you've been seeking. As the old saying goes: *be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.* While Pluto was in retrograde we all felt that there were things not being said. Now they will be. Pluto also rules hidden agendas, buried anger, and has much to do with how the collective handles these issues. I assume there will be some terrorist attacks in the world. Of course, these days it's almost a given month to month. Still, this could represent some very difficult situations. It's funny how quickly our society has changed, and how complacent and accepting we all have become. Now we accept terrorism as a way of life. Oh well, such is humanity.

MARS SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Friday September 25th at 9:12 P.M. EDT this very restrictive energy will hold us back from self-expression. This is a low energy day and will probably be a harsh day for the markets. We're heading towards that Lunar Eclipse on Sunday and this may be a difficult few days for many. This is not a good day to confront someone. You may not have your usual oomph and could wind up feeling bad about the outcome. Unless it's terribly urgent I would suggest leaving most disagreements until after the Full Moon.

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FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday September 27th at 10:50 P.M. EDT at 04 degrees Aries 40 minutes and it's a Lunar Eclipse. A Lunar Eclipse will block the Moon's light and can have a strong effect on emotional issues. This is a time when many people will find it hard to express themselves and may get caught up in personal problems. These eclipses are often times of endings and heavy emotional content. Relationships that aren't going well can find it quite difficult to deal with the feelings of inadequacy that are brought up. As such you can expect some nitpicking and a deep examination of any relationship. Those that are strong will survive. Those that aren't may not. This will be true on a personal level, but also on a global one. Nations that are bickering may see an escalation in their disputes. Europe is on the verge of a human crisis because of the flood of refugees pouring across its borders. This is becoming overwhelming and untenable. The very fiber of a united Europe is fraying and may lead to a political split. But it may also lead to a realization that unless the situation with Syria and ISIS is dealt with directly this problem will not be resolved.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Wednesday September 30th at 10:38 A.M. EDT this common aspect completes. This is a day of willfulness and direct communication. Most people will say exactly what's on their minds. But because Mercury is in retrograde some things may be said that can be shocking. Secrets tend to come out either during the retrograde or immediately after Mercury has gone direct. With the Sun's energy added to the mix there isn't the usual filter, which can result in some inconvenient truths being exposed. If you need to ferret out the underlying purpose behind something, this is a good aspect for doing just that. This is a good day for any sort of paperwork or for public speaking.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Tuesday October 6th at 10:12 A.M. EDT this rather intense transit completes. There's an obsessive nature to Pluto that can't leave things alone. The need to uncover any hidden agenda is powerful. Expect people to be prodding and unbending. It's easy to be compulsive and unable to let things go. Power struggles are common, so don't take the bait unless the situation is important enough for the fight. This only lasts a day and it will wane once the aspect completes in the morning. But its influence may be felt for hours afterwards, so use some caution. Avoid direct confrontations and dangerous situations.

MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Tuesday October 6th at 7:00 P.M. EDT this useful aspect will allow us all to focus our attention where we wish it. This is a good aspect for putting things in order or having an important conversation. There's a feeling of security and foundation behind the chat that will let you get to the heart of things without fear or recrimination. This is also a good day to take care of paperwork and any business issues. It's followed by Mars in opposition to Neptune (see below), which can be a more difficult transit. Try to complete any serious work by the time this transit completes.

MARS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

Also on Tuesday October 6th at 10:53 P.M. EDT this difficult aspect will redirect the energy. There is a lot of misdirection with this combination. People will not be as forthright or straightforward as they appear. There's a lot of fear and confusion that can produce some strange moods and ideas. Alcohol or drugs could play a role if the person has a problem with substance abuse. This is a very low energy aspect. It's not a good time for an important date or business meeting. People will not be feeling very strong or confident and they may be reacting more from their inner feelings than from the situation. Leave important matters for another day.

VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:

On Thursday October 8th at 1:30 P.M. EDT Venus enters this mutable earth sign. This is a good placement for anyone working in the health industry. It can also be a good aspect for artists and poets. But it's a difficult place for personal relationships. There tends to be an overly critical attitude which can have a negative affect on personal interactions. Try not to be too picky about things, especially in your closest relationships.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Friday October 9th at 10:58 A.M. EDT Mercury goes direct. For a few days we all need to be on our toes. As Mercury turns around there is a desire to rush things forward and make up for lost time. But that's a mistake. It's during the periods Mercury changes direction that most errors and misunderstandings take place. Wait a few days before making a final decision. Many issues that have been delayed will begin to move ahead once more. Just make sure you're on the right path. Much is being written about the "shadow period" before and after a retrograde. While I find there is something to it, and it's important to keep it in mind, if we take into account all the periods of retrograde and include the shadow times, we will be dealing with

retrograde energy at least as much as the direct motion. I'm more concerned with the actual retrogrades and keep the shadow period in mind while making important choices. But once Mercury goes direct, it's direct.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Saturday October 10th at 8:31 P.M. EDT this dour aspect completes. This isn't a good evening for social activities. You'd probably be happier on the couch with a glass of wine watching a movie than at a party. The subdued energy of Saturn can limit Venus' ability to socialize. As I said earlier, much of success has to do with navigating the river of life by following its currents and not pushing against the stream. Once this aspect completes the energy will wane. So if you have a social engagement to attend it would be better to show up a little later, giving this square time to dissipate.

JUPITER TRINES PLUTO:

On Sunday October 11th at 7:37 P.M. EDT this powerful and positive aspect completes. This trine allows us all to use the power of groups to our personal advantage. Jupiter's desire for growth will work in tandem with Pluto's deep connection to the collective and give us outlets for that expansion. Now that this is completing we won't have this energy in the undercurrent. This is followed closely by the Sun opposite Uranus (see below) a very upsetting transit. As we head into a new lunar cycle and the effects of the recent eclipses begin to wane we will see just how secure our financial markets really are. Monday is New Moon in Libra, which may help balance the books temporarily. But we are rapidly heading toward the Saturn square Neptune on November 26th. And that aspect is the one to pay close attention to.

THE SUN OPPOSES URANUS:

Also on Sunday October 11th at 11:49 P.M. EDT this potentially explosive aspect will put us all on edge. You need to use caution while this is applying. Avoid dangerous situations, and pay close attention to what you're doing. Accident and confrontations are to be expected. Awareness will help us sidestep a lot of problems. But we can't foresee everything. Just be careful as you walk through life. If someone is looking for a fight, let them look elsewhere. We may all be a bit tense, and you may say or do something without thinking it through.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday October 12th at 8:06 P.M. EST at 19 degrees Libra 20 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.

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.

September 13th 10:08 P.M. – 10:41 P.M.

September 16th 12:22 A.M. – 11:46 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

September 18th 3:49 P.M. – 11:32 P.M.

September 21st 4:59 A.M. – 8:33 A.M.

September 22nd 7:13 P.M. – September 23rd 1:51 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

September 25th 12:02 A.M. – 3:44 P.M. ***Moon is void all day

September 26th 12:32 P.M. – September 27th 3:29 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

September 29th 3:45 A.M. – 2:57 PM. ***Moon is void 12 hours

October 1st 6:44 A.M. – 4:03 P.M. *** Moon is void 12 hours

October 3rd 1:18 P.M. – 8:22 P.M.

October 5th 7:04 A.M. – October 6th 4:31 A.M. *** Moon is void 12 hours

October 7th 5:10 P.M. – October 8th 3:50 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

October 9th 6:12 P.M. – October 11th 4:46 A.M. ***Moon is void 1½ days!!

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

October 12th 8:06 P.M. – October 13th 5:38 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

October 14th 8:58 P.M. – October 16th 5:18 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days!!

October 18th 4:48 A.M. – 2:52 P.M.

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New York City

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