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

**August 2016**

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

This month we have several important astrological activities. **Saturn will go direct on August 13<sup>th</sup>**. This will have a profound impact on our culture and the election. We have gone through the much of the primary season with it in retrograde since March 25<sup>th</sup>. **Saturn has also been in square to Neptune for the past 18 months which has led to a great deal of fear and confusion. That square will complete for the last time on September 10<sup>th</sup>**. While its completion will not suddenly and completely clear up all misunderstandings, it will begin to remove some of the fog this square has created. **Mercury, Venus and Mars will all set off that Saturn – Neptune aspect this month** and we will experience some very complicated and difficult moments as we come to terms with some issues that have been hidden or misunderstood.

Once that square completes in September people will be better able to view matters in a more open and direct way and it will make the election in November much more focused and realistic. We have been under this cloud for too long. To try and choose such important answers while Saturn, the planet of reality, responsibility, and structure has been afflicted by Neptune, the planet of illusion and confusion is quite difficult. Nothing has been as it has seemed, and that is one reason why so many are wondering *how the hell did we get to this point?* Once that square completes much of the confusion will begin to lift. One candidate will win this election by a large majority.

While Saturn has been in retrograde it's been very difficult to put together any business deals or to structure things in a way that can lead to success. Now that it's going forward many of us will find it much easier to do so, and a lot of projects that have been delayed or thwarted will have another opportunity to come to fruition.

**Mercury will retrograde right at the end of this lunar cycle in Virgo, one of the two signs it rules.**

This will muddy matters even more for a few weeks and there will be misunderstandings, mistakes and complications. This will be true in our personal lives as well as in the public arena. And so it goes. I advise using caution whenever Mercury retrogrades, but with the ongoing Saturn – Neptune aspect it is even more important this month than usual

**I've been asked to analyze the charts of the two candidates, which I have done below.** But first a

word about the election itself. In many ways this election is the last hurrah of the baby boomers. Hillary and Trump are the early part of that double generation. Yes, the baby boomers are really several generations in one that have been lumped together. Those born from 1946 – 1964 are considered in that group. As the war ended Uranus was in Gemini, which both Hillary and Trump have. Then in 1949 Uranus entered Cancer for 7 years. In late 1955 it entered Leo. And finally in 1962 it moved into Virgo. So there are different segments of the Baby Boomers, each with its distinctive flavor based a lot on what sign Uranus was in at the time of birth. But if you look at this election from a different perspective all of the divisive contentious issues that led to the split in that generation in the 1960s are being played out again on the campaign trail. This is very much the separation of ideals that we saw in that era regarding the Vietnam War, welfare, civil rights, women's rights and many other topics that were never really settled. Will they be now? Probably not. The tug between the two camps has not lessened much through the years, as we can see in the way Congress stalls repeatedly. But the issues are certainly being brought into the spotlight and it will be very difficult to hide from them any longer. Are we even really voting for one or another candidate, or are we choosing the platform they are advancing? The perspectives of where America is today couldn't have been more different than were projected at the two conventions. The Republicans presented an America on the edge of collapse with little to hope for. It was quite a gloomy presentation. The Democrats tried to show a rosy optimistic country full of hope and potential. In some ways these are the two sides of this square with the Republicans representing Saturn's sense of fear while the Democrats show the idealistic Neptune energy.

Of course the truth is somewhere in the middle, as is usually the case. I try not to take sides, although my political point of view is very well known. But when discussing astrology, it's much more useful to try and keep an objective perspective. Still, this election season has made that quite difficult because of the glaring differences between the two candidates. There are more friendships ending over politics than I have seen since the volatile 60s. Now that we have Facebook, Twitter and the rest it's almost instantaneous. People we have known for years are suddenly being "unfriended" and not just on FB. The anger between the different camps, along with Bernie's supporters, third party voters, and a large group of people so discontented they will not vote at all, has spiked the level of animosity. And while this is an uncomfortable situation for many I don't believe that this discontent is a useless endeavor.

We will only make changes in our society when push comes to shove. That is exactly where we are. The end of the Saturn – Neptune square is almost upon us. When that completes there will be a new level of consciousness that will shrug off some of the fear and confusion that aspect has created. Once that happens I believe that many people will make a last minute decision about the election as some clarity returns to the conversation. Hopefully some of the friendships that have shattered will be fixable. But no matter how it goes for the individuals, this is a moment in our history when some issues that have become stagnant will finally move forward.

**Those of you who follow my newsletter or heard me on Coast to Coast or TV know that my prediction for the past year has been that Hillary will not only win but do so by the largest majority**

**in the last 20 years. That is my astrological prediction. I predicted both of G.W. Bush's elections as well as both of Obama's.**

**One of the big issues facing our nation and the world is employment.** At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were many inventions that radically altered the world. When the automobile became accessible to the masses it ended businesses that had for generations been a part of our culture. The horse and buggy employed millions of workers who were suddenly out of a job. But the difference to today's situation is startling. Once your job in a stable, or repairing buggies, or driving them disappeared you could be trained to work in a factory for Ford on an assembly line and make a decent wage. But the factories that have closed in the past decades in America won't be replaced by easy-to-learn careers. This is the age of computers and the Internet, and many of those workers do not have the skills or the talent to transfer to this new age. Many jobs are being replaced by robots as well. We must find ways to reeducate people and find a place in the society where they can fit in and learn new skills. Otherwise the anger and frustration that has become so prominent will not subside. It will grow even stronger as more are left behind in our brave new world. That is the issue that our elected officials must address. And frankly I'm not sure how one goes about making that a reality.

**As to the candidates' charts:**

**Donald Trump was born June 14, 1946. The birth time is recorded as 10:54 AM in Queens NY.** That time seems to work rather well as we will see.

Trump is a Gemini with the Sun at 22 degrees 56 minutes. His Moon is in Sagittarius at 21 degrees 12 minutes, and he is a Full Moon baby. That in itself is enough to raise eyebrows. I know many people born under a Full Moon, and most are very lovely souls. There is however a tendency to blow emotional issues out of proportion. It is essentially a battle between the parents with the child caught in the middle. This opposition of the Sun and Moon shows a difficult relationship between the parents, and between the parents and the child. There is a tug-of-war that can pull the child in two directions at once as he tries to please both the mother and father. The parents have much different perspectives and the child is unable to release the tension of that tight configuration. This is very much a defining aspect of Mr. Trump. As we have seen by his actions, the chart shows that he is explosive and has no sense of boundaries whatsoever. The presence of Uranus in that Full Moon shows that Trump truly is a contrarian. He will take the other side of any argument just to further the debate. The need for complete autonomy is so strong that he just doesn't play nice in the sandbox and never will. He pushed and bullied his way into the Republican nomination by playing off the anger and frustration of an ample part of the populace sufficient to draw enough votes. That collective anger is very real and cannot be ignored. It isn't sufficient to get him elected, but it is a powerful voice that must be addressed.

Trump has a Leo ascendant with Mars near the rising sign. The birth time I have gives him a 29 degree rising with Mars at almost 27 degrees. When any planet or point is in the last degree of a sign it gives that

person a feeling that they must complete something in this lifetime. It is very much a hangover from a previous incarnation, although we are not usually aware of such things. The first 2 \_ degrees of any sign is the most like that sign. We divide each sign into 12 parts of 2 \_ degrees, so the first part is ruled by that sign. For example, the first part of Aries is controlled by Aries. The next 2 \_ degrees is sub-ruled by Taurus, the next by Gemini, and so on. But when we reach the last degree of a sign there is a sense of criticalness and the person plays out the most subconscious part of that sign, in this case Leo. It has a 12<sup>th</sup> house feel to it and that brings up the Pisces type of energy associated with the 12<sup>th</sup> house. With Mars so close to the ascendant applying from the 12<sup>th</sup> house his ego is very much in play all the time. His decisions aren't really motivated by his intellect as much as by his need to express that restricted 12<sup>th</sup> house Mars. That's the equivalent of a Mars – Neptune aspect, and those two planets do not do well together. There is a dissipation of the Martian energy that can leave the person feeling unsure of him or herself. While Trump appears to be forceful and direct, in actuality he is anything but, and his actions show just the opposite. If his ego were strong and secure he would not react to every little slight with the meanness and dismissiveness he projects. He is in reality very thin-skinned and easy offended. His ego is quite fragile and it irks him to be corrected or challenged.

He also has Mercury in Cancer, an overly emotional placement that will often respond from the unconscious. It is in square to Neptune creating a very confused way of thinking and speaking. His facts are often wrong, and he doesn't care because his mind does not work in a direct or clear fashion. He has a great deal of 12<sup>th</sup> house issues in his chart. This square of Mercury to Neptune is also quite prominent in people who develop dementia, and I wouldn't be surprised if at some point that were the case. Uranus conjunct the Sun is often found in stroke patients, and with the Full Moon present as well I believe he will succumb at some point to a major circulatory problem.

He also has Saturn inconjunct his Moon which can be a very difficult aspect for emotional issues and for his immune system and digestion. The inconjunct is a distraction that will pull the person's attention away with little notice. This configuration also shows that his relationship with his mother and women in general is strained and difficult for him. Because he felt that he must choose between the father (Sun) and the mother (Moon) from an early age he did just that, picking the father's side.

The fact that his North Node is right between the Sun and Uranus in the 10<sup>th</sup> house of career shows that his drive for success is relentless and unrealistic, and directly related to his relationship with the father. I don't believe he's worth nearly what he says, and if that were to come out in public the embarrassment he would feel would wound his already shaky ego. This is the main reason he doesn't reveal his tax returns. There may be some shady business as well with Mercury in square to Neptune, but I think it's got more to do with his self-image than anything.

All in all this is a very difficult chart with so many harsh aspects, and it would be impossible for him to do the job. With the Full Moon and Uranus so prominent his temperament is too erratic and uncontrollable

and his presidency would be a catastrophe.

Now, before my readers who support Trump get too angry, let's take a look at Hillary's chart. I try to be as open minded and objective as I can.

**Hillary was born October 26, 1947. We do not know the time, despite many attempts to uncover it. Most astrologers use an 8:00 AM, or an 8:00 PM chart.** Joyce Levine has told me that she spoke to Hillary once in person and was told that she was born about 8:00 P.M. The PM chart is the one I have found most effective, which gives her a Gemini ascendant. I've always liked that time and feel that she does display a number of Gemini traits. But truthfully we do not know which limits our ability to examine the nuances of her personality. But then, that's very much the issue with Hillary. She's very secretive and has a problem stepping back or apologizing for her indiscretions.

She is a Scorpio, with the Sun, Chiron, Venus, Mercury and the South Node in that sign. All the signs have potentially positive and negative traits, and while Scorpio sometimes gets a bad rap in astrology it is one of the deepest feeling signs. I know many wonderful Scorpions and find their depth of feeling and understanding can be extremely useful. Scorpio rules the 8<sup>th</sup> house of rejuvenation and that house has a great deal of influence in all our lives. But they do tend towards secretiveness and can withhold information and hide their true feelings. With so much energy in that fixed water sign it can be quite difficult for her to open up and let us see what's going on inside. That can be a problem when running the country.

But the main issue with Hillary is that Mars is exactly conjunct Pluto in Leo. Saturn is also close by, but it is 7 degrees away and has less influence. This conjunction of Mars and Pluto makes her controlling and quite powerful. It also adds more fuel to that Scorpio side. Mars rules our energy, and the ego. Pluto the ruler of Scorpio being so prominently placed in her chart increases her secretiveness and with the conjunction to Mars makes it difficult for her to open up and show the world who she really is. It's interesting that neither candidate seems able or willing to apologize or accept responsibility for their mistakes.

In the 8:00 PM chart Hillary's Moon is 29 degrees Pisces. Interestingly we see that 29 - degree aspect in each candidate. This placement makes it very difficult for her to show her emotions, and she comes across somewhat cold and distant. This is one of the biggest reasons some people are turned off by her. We want our leaders to be parental figures all cuddly and soft. She does not come across that way.

There are issues with each of the two candidates. But while I do try to be objective, I cannot say that they are equal in their talents, personalities or experiences. I just don't believe there is even remotely a comparison between the two. Hillary is a flawed human being who has made some mistakes in her long career. But Donald Trump has the chart of a sociopath who could easily lead us down a road we could not come back from. I believe it would be in America's best interests at this point in history and with these

choices, to elect Hillary. Donald Trump is the most volatile dangerous person to ever seek the office of President of the United States.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:44 P.M. EDT at 10 degrees Leo 58 minutes.** Leo rules the stage, and many of those born under this sign have a flair for the dramatic. You can expect some of that energy to prevail this month as we enter the fixed part of summer. As some guy named Bill once said: *All the world's a stage...* and that will be even more true this month. Don't take everything that is said at face value. Some people may over emote or dramatize situations just for effect. This is the month for games, romance and recreation. Where last month was more family oriented, this one is all about love and playing. We give Leo and the associated 5<sup>th</sup> house rulership over children, games, romance and creativity. These are all very much akin. Are we ever more inventive and creative than when we're in love? Or more childlike? Of the five million songs written every year I would guess that 90% of them are about romance in some form or another. Sometimes it's the beginning of a love affair, very often (especially in my catalogue) it's about the ending. So take advantage of this energy and go out and play. Let the inner child out. Run through the sand on the beach and play in the waves. And keep your eye open for romance. There's nothing quite like a summer fling to make you feel alive and joyful. With Venus entering Virgo in a few days (see below) try not to be too judgmental or demanding. It could squash a budding romance unnecessarily.

### **VENUS ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:27 A.M. EDT** love will take on a decidedly critical turn. This placement is very good for those in the arts or in any career that requires attention to detail. Accountant, businesspeople and editors can also make use of this energy to their advantage and keep things clear and concise. However, it can be a little difficult in romance where numbers often don't add up. It's important not to be too picky or deconstruct a situation that requires more from the heart than the mind. It's easy to see what's wrong with someone with this placement, but Virgo can get caught up in the detail of things and not see the bigger picture. Step back a bit and see what's right as well as what's wrong. Then decide if something is worth the effort.

### **MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:**

**On Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:18 A.M. EDT** many people will be rather dour and unenthusiastic today. There is a tendency to argue or nit-pick with Mercury in conflict to Saturn, so try not to be overly demanding. Attention to detail is very much a part of this aspect, and this is a good time to take care of paperwork and put your issues in order. One of the positive sides of this transit is that we will all be more realistic and concise in our opinions and goals. There won't be time for frivolous or unproductive things. Many people will be looking for an argument, but you don't have to take the bait. If something is worth the fight, then go for it. But if it's just ego or underlying anger you'd be better off ignoring it and walking away. If you use this energy properly you can accomplish much and set your objectives with a clear and honest

perspective. Then if you clear your desk in a few days you will have more time for play.

### **VENUS SQUARES MARS:**

**Also on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:20 P.M. EDT** the male and female planets are in conflict. This may be a difficult day for interaction between the sexes. But interestingly enough this square does tend to stimulate attraction and while there may be some ruffled feathers, there may also be a strong desire to interact. What does that say about the human condition I wonder? So, while this transit could bring out your aggressive side and lead to a hookup, I find that most new relationships that begin under this aspect do not work out terribly well. There is an underlying feeling of stress and competition. This square can also stimulate creativity with the Mars energy pushing the Venus love of art to create something. It might not be an easy creation, but it may contain some important element about how we relate to each other.

### **MERCURY OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**On Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:25 P.M. EDT** this rather difficult and confusing aspect completes. This is a day to pay attention to things and not assume you are seeing clearly. Misunderstandings are common, and it may be easy to misinterpret what someone has said. You must also be very direct and clear in your own communications. Travel can also be difficult, so double check everything including directions and mechanical issues. This is the type of transit under which your gas gage may break without you realizing it, and you could spend that hot summer day walking down the highway searching for an open gas station. Computers, cell phone and other technological devices may give us some trouble as well. Back up your important files and think before you push the “send” button on your email. You could regret what you say. And be especially careful with all forms of communication and travel.

### **MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:23 P.M. EDT** it will be easier to get your point across and to dig deeply into the undercurrent of ideas and thoughts. Pluto will uncover what is beneath the surface and bring it up so all can see. Because this is a positive trine it can be done without much fuss or tension. But you still will find that some secrets or hidden agendas are revealed, so be prepared. This is especially true following the Mercury opposite Neptune we experienced a few days ago that muddied the waters and made it difficult to see the truth clearly. If you've been delaying an important conversation this would be a good day to have it. But expect to hear what is underneath the pleasantries. Secrets may be revealed as well, so be prepared.

### **SATURN GOES DIRECT:**

**On Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:51 A.M. EDT** this difficult planet begins its forward motion once again. This is good news for many issues including professional problems and any ongoing matters such as a long term relationship. Many businesses that have become stuck or unproductive will start to move forward once again. Saturn will demand a reality check and that is exactly what we need right now in our personal lives and in our culture. There are a number of issues that have become cloudy and difficult to

figure out. This is true for the individual as well as the collective. Somethings that have been confusing and hard to resolve will begin to make more sense. We can expect some lucidity with this difficult election year as well. People will make decisions that have been very hard to do for some time. With this planet's change of direction there will be a reckoning on many fronts and the result will be a more honest and clear approach to things. While Saturn was in retrograde many problems were internalized and it's been hard to find a direct path. Now it should begin to make more sense. As we approach the last pass of Saturn square Neptune that will complete on September 10<sup>th</sup> many confusing problems will find a solution and we should all begin to feel as though we at least have a clue as to our direction and approach. We have been living under that confusing square all year. It is finally going to complete soon and the fog it has created will lift.

### **VENUS SQUARES SATURN:**

**Also on Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:31 A.M. EDT** Venus will set off the ongoing Saturn – Neptune square. It will first create a 90 degree angle to the direct Saturn and bring a sense of reality to romance and finances. This square isn't a very pleasant energy. It tends to limit our ability to express feelings and to reach out to each other. There can be a sense of futility and a lack of enthusiasm, which seeps into the most personal connections we have. But it's a temporary situation that will last a few days. It's important to remember this and not to dwell on the negative or wallow in depression or self-pity. Let's just call this a reality check that will make us all more critical of our partners. The next few days may be harsh and confusing as this square and the opposition of Venus to Neptune complete. If you aren't sure about a relationship, you can either use this force to examine it with a cold, clear eye, or you can choose to avoid any confrontations that arise. But I've found that with Saturn transits it's best to face them head on and not pretend there aren't issues to see. But Saturn does tend to only look at the worst in situations, and it's possible to make decisions that you might later regret. Look at things with an open mind, and allow yourself to be critical and tough in your analysis. But wait a few days before making any permanent choices. If the problems really are insurmountable they will still be obvious next week after this challenging aspect has passed and you can act upon them then. If however the issues are more about your current mood or this square is making you too nit-picky and severe you may damage a perfectly good connection.

Financial matters are also being examined with a critical eye. This is a good time to look over your portfolio and your budget to see where you can make some adjustments to solidify your finances. This is often a bad few days for the stock markets.

### **VENUS OPPOSES NEPTUNE:**

**On Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:04 P.M. EDT** the second half of this pair of Venus transits completes. Today there will be a lot of confusion about what to do in your most intimate relationships. Because of Neptune's tendency towards illusion you may not be seeing things as clearly as you think. Just like the Venus square Saturn mentioned above, you would be better off waiting until this passes before making any important decisions about relationships or financial matters. When Neptune is activated we often



don't know exactly what to do. And I believe that when you aren't seeing things clearly the best thing to do is nothing. Clarity will return soon and you will then be able to act in a more functional and intelligent manner. The most positive side to this transit is that it can manifest as a spiritual or creative energy. You may feel more loving and compassionate, and have a strong desire to help others in a selfless way. That would be the best way to use this. It's also a very powerful transit for all artistic and creative ventures. Any imaginative or inspired project could get a big boost now.

### **THE SUN TRINES URANUS:**

**On Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:23 P.M. EDT** this very positive and useful transit will allow us all to make changes in our projects, direction, and attitude without the usual difficulties. Uranus wants radical change. When it is in hard aspect it often doesn't even matter what that change is as long as it's sufficiently different from the current path. But the trine is a positive and more user-friendly energy than the hard aspects. You can use this force to your advantage and more easily implement alterations in ongoing activities and relationships without upsetting the status quo too much. This is especially true if this trine sets off your personal chart. But even if it doesn't there will be an underlying sense for a day or two that there are things that can be redirected and changes that can easily be put into practice. Try to make use of it and don't be afraid if something is a little different than what you may usually embrace. If this were a conjunct, opposition or square it would force itself upon us and create uncomfortable and upsetting events. But it shouldn't feel that way with the trine. Keep an open mind and look around you to see what life is offering.

### **VENUS TRINES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 P.M. EDT** this positive but intense transit will bring relationship issues that may have been hidden up to the surface. Because this is a trine you can view them without too much trepidation. But even in positive aspects Pluto can be very demanding and may force you to look at some things that you've been avoiding for some time. Hidden agendas and secrets may be revealed, but if you're willing to face them head on you can clear the air and get rid of things that have held back the relationship. Pluto rules the elimination of waste. This is true in a medical astrology read, as well as in business issues. In a horary chart if Pluto is prominent the same concept is true. When it aspects Venus anything regarding relationships or finances that has outlived its usefulness will be scrutinized and removed. It will be easier to do so under this trine than with the hard aspects, but ultimately the same idea will be true.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:26 A.M. EDT at 25 degree Aquarius 52 minutes.** This can be the most explosive and unpredictable Full Moon of the year. It demands respect, and we should all pay attention to what's going on around us. If this hits your chart particularly hard, extra care is certainly called for. We may see yet another disturbing event in the world, and if possible try to avoid dangerous situations. The erratic and unpredictable energy of Aquarius and its ruler, Uranus requires that we expect the unexpected. Because of the world we now live in it's important to pay heed to

warning signs and not be too complacent.

But on another more positive level Aquarius is all about radical change and redirecting your energy into a path that may be quite different from your current one. It is the harnessing of the power of the universe to create a difference. If you can find ways to focus this power it will do you much good. But you must be prepared to accept changes and motivations that may seem unusual and even antithetical to your usual ideas. Explore the unusual and take *the road less traveled* as they say. This sign has little use for limitations or the safe path. It's more about taking chances and exploration. It's a shame that the innocence my generation knew as children no longer exists. But there is still a wonderful world out there that to discover and taking the time to leave the beaten path may result in some amazing encounters.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCT JUPITER:**

**On Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:05 A.M. EDT** we have this extremely positive and enthusiastic conjunct. Mercury rules our thoughts and communications. And Jupiter wants expansion wherever it goes. So this is a chance to enlarge our perspective and to express those ideas. This is a good time for any important conversation or for stretching your concepts as far as they will go. Seek out new information and ideas, and don't stifle the desire to explore the world. That is exactly what this transit offers. If an idea has become stuck or unproductive, you may figure out a new way of approaching it, and you shouldn't resist trying new things. Anything that can enlarge your ideas will be a positive use of this aspect. Higher education and travel are two ways this can manifest. Any journey begun now, either a short one or an extended trip will be very fulfilling and increase your perspective on life.

### **THE SUN ENTERS VIRGO:**

**Also on Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:39 P.M. EDT** we enter the mutable part of summer. Virgo is all about the details. It is ruled by Mercury, and is the sign of the auditor. If part of your life requires more attention to the little things, they will come to the forefront. While there is a tendency to get lost in those details, a careful balance and respect for the bigger picture can help avoid it. The school year begins while the Sun is in Virgo, and that is a perfect example of how we are being asked to shrink from the largeness of Leo with all its showiness and embrace the small pieces that interact to create a foundation. Remember, though it is a mutable sign, Virgo still is one of the three earth signs and its primary goal is to build structure. The Sun now joins Mercury, Venus and Jupiter already in this mutable earth sign, so we are dealing with a plethora of Virgo energy. Make the most of it and use it to focus on things.

### **MARS CONJUNCTS SATURN:**

**On Wednesday August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:27 A.M. EDT** Mars now sets off the Saturn – Neptune square. This conjunct to Saturn is a very difficult and limiting transit that will make many of us feel restricted. The energy that Mars usually exudes will be stifled by Saturn's boundaries. It will be hard to express yourself, and the usual bravado that you are used to may not be accessible. This can cause frustration and irritability. The best way to handle this is to limit your expectations and wait it out. This and the square of Mars to Neptune mentioned below will give us all a few days of low energy and repressed egos. Pushing

against the tide will only tire you out. If you feel exhausted, just rest. Your usual oomph will return soon. Because of the frustration this aspect can produce it would be better not to directly confront others. Wait until this passes and then have that discussion. If you attempt to push things forward now you will only hit a brick wall and feel even more resistance. Those with a prominent Mars in their natal charts will be particularly affected negatively, and may lash out indiscriminately. Try not to be the focal point of their anger. This and the Mars square Neptune will create a few days of low energy and fear. Don't make more of it than is necessary. It will pass quickly. These transits are usually very bad for the stock markets, so don't be surprised by a dip in equities.

### **MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:**

**On Friday August 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:57 A.M. EDT** the second part of this pairing completes. This is another day or two of very low energy and some confusion. Irritability will continue until this passes, so don't expect others to be very easy to get along with. This transit can be very tiring, especially if it hits your chart. In general the world will seem frustrated and uncomfortable. Because this falls so early in the morning it will be felt most strongly the night before, but it will set up the mood for Friday. Because the energy will be quite low and egos very fragile, don't set your standards too high for this week. Take time out to rest and take care of the most important issues first so you don't run out of oomph. This is not a good time to confront someone or take on challenges. You probably won't have enough strength for the fight and you could feel very bad about the results. Wait a few days until these low energy transits pass and then look over things. We could be ending a bad week for the stocks.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS JUPITER:**

**On Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:29 P.M. EDT** this very positive and optimistic transit will help smooth over the difficult Mars aspects we have just experienced. This can be an uplifting and pleasant day, but it probably won't be all that energetic. While our moods will be better and we can enjoy life's pleasure more, Venus isn't by nature all that forceful. And the conjunct to Jupiter can create an atmosphere of laziness and lethargy. Don't plan too strenuous a schedule for another few days. While we may wish to compensate for the lack of direction of this past week, it will still feel very difficult to push your agenda forward. It is a good day for anything creative, or for indulging in good food, drink and the company of others. But it's not all that good for work. We are approaching the retrograde Mercury next Tuesday, and it's tempting to try and get as much done as possible in preparation. But sometimes it's better to just let things be and pick up the thread later. This is one of those times. Socializing will be fun. And there is the chance of a romantic encounter if this conjunct hits the right points in your chart. Enjoy yourself and rejuvenate your battery. There will be plenty of time for work in the coming week. This weekend should be spent at a museum, show or movie followed by an outdoor dinner watching the world go by.

### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:**

**On Monday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:32 A.M. EDT** this pleasant and easy going transit will complete early in the morning. This conjunct makes all forms of communication very enjoyable. This is a good time for any conversation, especially of a personal nature. Spend time with a friend or your significant other. Because

we are so close to the end of the lunar cycle, and with Mercury about to start its backward motion you should try to complete any issues that need to be cleaned up. But this isn't a time to begin a new project or try to push through anything that requires a lot of energy. It is quite positive for creative work of all sorts, so if you're working on a song, story or writing a business proposal you may wish to complete it before the New Moon. But if you find yourself a little lazy or unfocused, don't push it. Let it go until you feel more energetic.

### **VENUS ENTERS LIBRA:**

**Also on Monday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:07 P.M. EDT** Venus enters one of the signs it rules. Libra is all about relationships, and with Venus the planet of love traveling here the next few weeks will offer some opportunities to begin a new connection or advance an ongoing one. Certainly Mercury's retrograde motion may create some difficulties with communication or getting that person on the phone, but I have found that its backward motion can actually be very positive in many ways, including expressing what's really on your mind. You may have a hard time reaching that person once Mercury goes retrograde, but once you do you can cut through a lot of the B.S. that often holds us back from self-expression. Spend some time this coming month pursuing a relationship or at least thinking about what it is you want and need from someone else.

### **MERCURY RETROGRADES:**

**On Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:04 A.M. EDT** our favorite disruptive transit begins just as this lunar cycle ends. Because it's starting on the Dark of the Moon we can expect some serious difficulties in those issues that Mercury has domain over. Any projects that seem stalled will probably continue to cause problems for some time to come. Don't lose patience or overreact. Take your time and examine exactly what's going on, and be realistic about your projects and plans. It may take some time to enact them, but in the long run you'd be better off taking it slowly and carefully. If you jump the gun you will regret some of the decisions you make. This retrograde takes place in the critical sign of Virgo, one of the two signs we give Mercury rulership over. The usual warnings regarding this transit are appropriate include extra care with all paperwork, computers, cell phones and other technological devices. It may be a particularly harsh retrograde because of its placement in this sign. Try not to be too picky with others or get lost in the small details. You must keep a clear perspective on what's most important or you will lose your direction and spend weeks on something that isn't worth your time and effort.

### **DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:03 A.M. EDT at 9 degrees Virgo 21 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 lunar cycles 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.**

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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 Daylight Time:

*Please note: In response to requests from 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.*

August 4<sup>th</sup> 12:13 A.M. – 3:34 A.M.

August 5<sup>th</sup> 11:20 P.M. – August 6<sup>th</sup> 12:57 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1:41 P.M. – August 9<sup>th</sup> 12:51 A.M.\*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

August 11<sup>th</sup> 1:21 A.M. – 1:24 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1:37 P.M. – August 14<sup>th</sup> 12:11 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 10 hours

August 15<sup>th</sup> 10:45 P.M. – August 16<sup>th</sup> 7:52 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 9 hours

August 18<sup>th</sup> 5:26 A.M. – 12:34 P.M.

August 20<sup>th</sup> 8:21 A.M. – 3:18 P.M.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:48 A.M. – 5:19 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 9 hours

August 24<sup>th</sup> 3:38 P.M. – 7:40 P.M.

August 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30 P.M. – 11:06 P.M.

August 29<sup>th</sup> 2:23 A.M. – 4:11 A.M.

August 31<sup>st</sup> 12:20 A.M. – 11:22 A.M.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:13 P.M. – 8:55 P.M.

September 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30 P.M. – September 5<sup>th</sup> 8:38 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

September 7<sup>th</sup> 8:43 P.M. – 9:20 P.M.

**July 2016**

**New York City**

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