

LIVING BY STARLIGHT

an Astrological Newsletter

February – March 2016

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Saturn continues to square Neptune until the fall. And so, the stocks keep going down. This is not going to be a good year for retirement accounts. You may as well get used to seeing triple digit moves in the DOW and NASDAQ, both up and down. The global economy is in bad shape, as I predicted, and we could see a huge selloff. But the stock markets always recover. They are the means of generating most collective wealth, and something that will not easily be destroyed. The price of oil is upsetting the equilibrium, as is the end of the Chinese bubble. It will take a long time to change the structure of our financial culture. It will not happen overnight. It's important not to panic. Remember, while you're thinking of dumping your portfolio most of the big hedge funds are looking for a place to buy. Certainly there could be pain. But if you do your homework you'll see that the stock markets go up about 80% of the time.

If you're day trading, this volatility is made to order. The ups and downs will create much motion, which is how day traders make money. But if your funds are in your 401K or other long term investments, this will be a scary year as you see the amounts drop. I recommend patience. You either get out of the markets and wait until they have bottomed out, or you stay in and ride the wave down and then back up. You must understand that for example, in the midst of the great depression the stock market rose from 1931-37 when it was finally pushed back into a bear market by the demands of the Republican congress that FDR balance the budget, which he did. This resulted in the so-called Roosevelt Recession that only really ended with our entrance into the Second World War and the huge surge of productivity that the war machine produced.

Another result of this **Saturn square Neptune is that** we are standing at a crossroads in American history. As we can all see, this is a very unusual election season. The candidates range from the extreme right (Cruz, Trump) and the extreme left (Bernie Sanders). But America has a Sun – Saturn square in its chart, and we are by nature a centralist nation. Whenever we lean too far one way or another there is a snapback effect. When FDR ran America for 13 years there were many who accused him of being a socialist. There is some truth to that phrase because of where the country was when he entered office. Now however we accept social security, Medicare, unemployment benefits, collective bargaining as the norm. They don't seem so radical anymore. When Richard Nixon was president the left accused him of being too reactionary and conservative. I saw John Dean on TV a number of years ago and he said that now he and Nixon would be considered left of center. These terms change as the times change. But the American electorate has always pulled itself back to the center. There's no reason to assume we won't do the same.

In truth, I don't find any of the people running for president in either party great, very trustworthy or frankly, with much street smarts. Some are very intelligent, but that's different than being prepared for the job. There is no clear agenda, only words filled with promises unattainable. In my recent newsletters I predicted that Hillary would win. She may, she may not. I also said that this would most likely be a one term presidency. If Bernie wins he will be almost 80 when his term is over. And his policies will be very difficult to implement or sustain. Not only will he find a defiant Republican party, but Democrats will also fight his ideas. It will be an untenable and counter-productive presidency. He won't even have the support of much of his own party.

The 20 year-old in me would not only vote for Bernie but probably canvass for him as well. When the future is all ahead and the road seems long and endless we take more chances and approach our problems from a different point of view. But now as I get older I see the difficult path that anyone with such radical ideas on either side has. In a perfect world we could incorporate his ideals into the discussion. But with the state of American politics at the moment we are having a hard enough time preventing the collapse of our center. The issues we face are massive. Our culture is suffering from "future shock". What humanity thought of as our road for the past two centuries is no longer reality. The ecological

balance had been irreversibly thrown out of balance. We are more controlled by a few people of great wealth and power than ever before in human history. Norway is rapidly heading towards a cashless society. It will be followed by Sweden, Denmark, and others. By forcing the population to only use debit or credit cards we are handing control over our existence to corporations that will use that information to their own end. There will be less and less freedom and free-will. The power and influence of a chosen few is worse than when kings and emperors controlled huge parts of the known world. But now they do it with money through banks and control over our future. Monsanto wants to make it illegal to label foods as GMOs. The Koch brothers wish to control the very substance of our existence. The Walmart family has more wealth than the bottom half of our nation. And we have a government that almost nobody trusts any longer to work for our collective betterment. Would a revolution be good? I don't know. I don't think I'd have enjoyed living in France during the Reign of Terror. Or in China when Mao decided that the only answer was a radical redirection of the society through the death of countless humans.

If you tear down our society, it may very well be rebuilt in a better and more humane way. But those who live through that rebuilding will suffer through a long period of collapse before the rebuilding.

Here's hoping that whatever the end result of this election season is it ultimately brings about positive changes with the least amount of suffering.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Monday February 8th at 9:39 A.M. EST at 19 degrees Aquarius 16 minutes, and it's a Void of Course Moon. The Aquarius New Moon can be a very erratic and unpredictable energy. Because it is also a Void of Course Moon this month will be difficult to navigate. Whenever the New Moon is Void of Course the energy being transmitted lacks the connection we are used to, as with any void Moon. Every 2 _ days the Moon goes void. That means that it has made the last major aspect to another luminary before it leaves the sign it is in. Those of you who study astrology are aware of this phenomenon. At the end of every newsletter I list the void moons for the month because I have seen the results of dealing with this lack of aspects, and I feel it is important to be aware of when the Moon is unattached. During a Void of Course Moon it's recommended that you not make permanent decisions or important purchases. Things will not turn out the way you had hoped. This doesn't mean that everything will fail, but we use astrology to help us time the best moments for our actions. And the Moon rules out day to day lives more than any other planet. It controls our emotions and our interaction. So when the New Moon is void, as this one and the following two will be, we can expect that many issues we begin now could take a sudden unexpected turn. Again, this doesn't imply that everything you attempt this month will fail. But rather that we must be vigilant and less rigid in our approach to projects, situations, emotional relationships and other issues that will arise.

Generally the Aquarius New Moon demands that we be open-minded and less controlling. While this is a fixed sign and displays many of the unbending tendencies of the fixed energy, it has a need for revolutionary and exploratory freedom. This is often a month when we in the northern hemisphere are locked inside. So we are apt to seek our freedom from within, rather than by running to the beach or taking a drive into the country. As such, our sense of independence is also internalized and requires that we look for unusual ways to express ourselves. This is a month when we should all be seeking new and different ways of dealing with our problems. If you stay too focused on the tried and true, you may be disappointed when nothing much changes. But if you are able to look beyond your usual limitations and take off the blinders, you may see a whole new world and a different way of handling any ongoing issues that have thus far prevented solutions.

VENUS TRINES JUPITER:

On Wednesday February 10th at 2:54 A.M. EST this wonderfully positive and social transit will complete. Because this occurs so early in the morning its effects will be felt more strongly the night before. People will be gregarious and outgoing and romance is certainly possible. But it's up to you to be receptive. Astrology does not force things to occur, but opens the window of opportunity that we must take advantage of. Anything creative or artistic will be very rewarding. Tuesday night would be a very good time to take in a Broadway show, a movie, concert, or other artistic endeavor. Planning a get together would also be very positive.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

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On Saturday February 13 at 5:43 P.M. EST Mercury enters the sign of its exaltation. Mercury does quite well in this fixed air sign. It has the ability to understand complex mental issues and can work well between the two parts of the brain. Mercury's sign, Gemini rules the RAM of the human computer, while Aquarius rules the hard drive. When they work well together it's like a well functioning computer able to grab the information at will, while using the deeper and fuller concepts to connect the various parts of an issue. Use this period to examine how you're looking at your life, and try not to separate them into individual segments, but rather as the parts of a whole. Also, don't limit your opportunities but allow that Aquarian energy to explore the unknown and look for new and unusual ways of interacting.

MARS SEXTILES JUPITER:

Also on Saturday February 13th at 5:59 P.M. EST this very positive aspect completes. This is a very vigorous and useful energy that allows us all to interact in a more direct and constructive way. Egos will be in good shape, and it will be easy to get people to work towards a common goal without the usual competitive nonsense. But that doesn't mean that there won't be ego play involved. Quite the opposite. Many of us will be more gung-ho and active than usual. But with a sextile it's easier to manipulate the energy where you need it, and to express it in an unthreatening and productive manner. If you need to assert yourself, this is a good day to do so. You'll be able to be affirmative without being aggressive. This is also a good day to direct your thoughts and ideas to those you may normally be afraid to express them to. The difference between a hard aspect, like a conjunct, opposition or square, and a soft one, such as a trine or sextile is how well we can use the energy to our advantage. The hard aspects tend to force themselves upon us and into situations without our direction. The soft ones are more malleable and better focused. Jupiter's expansive nature will allow us to use the force of Mars in a more user-friendly way. Mars will help us direct that Jupiter philosophy into dynamic and creative ventures. Try to make use of this in any way you can.

VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Tuesday February 16th at 11:17 P.M. EST love will take a decidedly unusual twist. Until March 12th when Venus enters Pisces you may find that your attempts at romance are strange and different than usual. This isn't a bad thing. In fact, it may create an atmosphere that is very helpful, especially for ongoing relationships that may have become somewhat dull or predictable. Now the direction is towards the more erratic and atypical. Certainly there could be some bizarre reactions. But mostly we tend to stay within our own rules, so it will probably manifest as slightly aberrant without being too weird. But you should let your imagination have room to play. This is also a very creative placement, although the results may also be a little outside of our normal artistic displays. The key is not to limit what you look at, even if you do put some restraints upon the end results.

THE SUN ENTERS PISCES:

On Friday February 19th at 12:34 A.M. EST we enter the mutable part of winter. This is often an unpredictable period of the year. The weather may be strange, although these days with climate change that's more to be expected than surprising. Pisces is the sign that rules spirituality and many of us may find ourselves delving into that unreal realm. Once Mercury and Venus join the Sun in this sign there will be more of this underlying these. Charity and generosity are a common response to Pisces energy. That doesn't mean that all those born under this zodiac sign are always altruistic. I don't believe in generalization in astrology. But to fully understand what a sign's energy means it's often necessary to rely on clichés and commonalities. Pisces and its ruling planet Neptune simply aren't that interested in what we call the "real world". So don't be surprised if some people act in unfathomable ways. It's not that they are necessarily acting strange, but rather that you are seeing their responses from a different set of eyes. If you can see things through the other person's point of view you can easily understand their motivation and rules. This month people will be responding more from the ethereal than the concrete.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on February 22nd at 1:20 P.M. EST at 3 degrees Virgo 34 minutes. All Full Moons demand respect. The opposition of the Sun to the Moon can be a very difficult and emotionally charged time when people overreact to situations and can respond in an irrational way. The Virgo Full Moon tends to highlight issues of personal health, service and communication. If there are any underlying issues of wellbeing they may come to the surface now, particularly if this aspect sets off your chart. Diets, medication, or other concerns involving the body may be brought to the forefront. Pay attention to these issues and make sure you're doing all you can to resolve them. Virgo is the 6th sign of the zodiac and controls all 6th house situations including your work environment and relationships with

co-workers or employees. If there is a problem it should be confronted directly and dealt with.

MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:

On Thursday February 25th at 3:06 A.M. EST this very positive sextile completes. This combination focuses the mind and gives an avenue of release for your inner thoughts and ideas. It's a very useful aspect that can help you get a lot of work done in a short period of time. But it completes very early in the morning, so unless you are a night owl you may not enjoy the fruits of this aspect. Still, because of the trine between Saturn and Uranus in the sky at the moment, Mercury will positively aspect both of those planets giving us a few days of exceptionally clear and focused ideas.

MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:

On Friday February 26th at 6:02 P.M. EST this second half of this pair of sextiles comes along. Where the Mercury sextile Saturn mentioned above is a focused and directed energy, this sextile is more experimental and imaginative. The combination of the two will allow many of us to produce new thought, ideas, or creative projects that stay within the boundaries of reality oriented Saturn while still giving an opportunity to express something unusual and daring. This ongoing trine between Saturn and Uranus will bring up several chances over the next year to lay a foundation underneath the creative and artistic side of life. Now it is affecting our intellect and if used properly can result in something wonderfully inventive. This is especially positive for artists or other creative souls.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Sunday February 28th at 10:48 A.M. EST this very difficult and confusing aspect will create havoc for many of us. This is a hard aspect because the Sun represents the will and is the most focused and directed energy of the luminaries. Neptune on the other hand couldn't care less about your responsibilities or idea of what is real. This often is a very bad time for the stock markets because of that issue. With the equities already in the shape they're in I expect more downward motion. We are in a bear market, and this conjunct should create more problems of reality vs. fantasy. As I said in my Author's Notes this is not going to be a good year for retirement accounts. The global economy is in bad shape, and there is a possibility that we could see a huge selloff. But my advice is to not panic and look at the long term not just a few months.

VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:

On Monday February 29th at 8:07 P.M. EST Venus will set off that Saturn – Uranus trine. This and the aspect below will create a few interesting days involving a reality check. Today we will all be more realistic about our relationships and our finances. You can look at your significant other from a clearer perspective and make some decisions about what you need and want from your connections to others. It's a good day to create a budget or look at your money issues intelligently. This may give us a few days of upward motion in the stock markets, especially if that Sun – Neptune conjunct has dropped the bottom out. Stocks have always rebounded, and there's no reason to assume they won't this year as well. But like I said in the Author's Notes, it depends upon whether you're day trading or looking at your finances for the long term.

VENUS SEXTILES URANUS:

On Wednesday March 2nd at 8:13 P.M. EST love will be more exciting and adventurous. This is a day to seek out unusual and interesting people and consider some ideas that may normally be a little too radical for you. It doesn't mean that you will change your basic nature or values, but rather look for some interesting ways to spice up anything that has become stale or uninspiring. Any creative venture will go well, and you should take in some entertainment that is different from your usual taste.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Saturday March 5th at 12:43 A.M. EST this difficult square will complete. As all aspects are more potent when they are applying, you should be careful Friday night. This can result in arguments, or sudden changes of attitude and opinion. Many people will feel feisty and it will be easy to overstate something or be misunderstood. Care should be taken while traveling as well. Accidents are common, and there will be many. Because of the underlying anger that Mars can create you should be careful how you speak to others. If a disagreement arises it may be wise to close your mouth and just walk away. Otherwise things could escalate beyond your ability to handle the results.

MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:

Also on Saturday March 5th at 5:24 A.M. EST the planet of thought and speech enters this ethereal sign. For the next few weeks until March 21st some confusion and misunderstandings are to be expected. This placement can be very creative, but not terribly reality-oriented. This is good for poets, musicians, and other artists, but not so much for business people or data. Back up your files and prepare for the confusion that often accompanies the combination of Mercury and Neptune-ruled Pisces.

MARS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Saturday March 5th at 9:30 P.M. EST the planet of ego enters this Jupiter-ruled sign. This energy is a mixed bag. On one hand it's very positive and can be used to get things done and push forward your agenda. There's self-assuredness when Mars and Jupiter come in contact. It's easy to push your agenda forward. There's energy galore and a feeling of invulnerability, or at the least the potential for great things. But it's also quite easy to blow things out of proportion and many people may feel overly aggressive and try to inappropriately assert their will on others. This can come across as arrogant and pushy, and could create resistance to what are positive opportunities. If you use a little control and put things in perspective you can avoid this side-effect. But it will take awareness and vigilance. Use this placement to your advantage and get things done. Just do it with a little humility.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

On Sunday March 6th at 1:04 A.M. EST this dreary aspect will compete. This isn't a very easy transit, and a lot of us may feel the pressure and limitations of Saturn, especially if that planet is heavily aspected in your natal chart or you're going through a severe Saturn transit at the moment. This is a day to focus on what's most important. You must look at things from a realistic perspective and get your work done. This completes early in the morning, so its effects will be felt Saturday night. But it will set up the energy for Sunday as well. Even though the aspect will be waning, its energy will continue to be felt early in the day. But because the Sun will be sextile to Pluto Sunday night, that aspect will take over and change the feelings a bit. Don't waste your time on frivolous issues. Try to complete anything that is hanging over your head. I wouldn't plan an important date or other social activity for Saturday. The energy will be limited and not very affable.

THE SUN SEXTILES PLUTO:

Also on Sunday March 6th at 11:38 P.M. EST the Sun sextiles Pluto. This is an easier aspect to work with than the Sun square Saturn mentioned above. This isn't as cheerful as the Sun opposite Jupiter mentioned below, but it will be more malleable and you can get things done without the struggle of the Saturn square. Today you can get others to work with you towards any common goal that will benefit you all. While this is a positive sextile, it's still a combination of solar and Plutonian force and will demand a certain amount of attention. Pluto is never satisfied with superficial answers, so many of us will be drawn into some serious thinking. There is an obsessive quality to this planet, even in a positive aspect. Don't get compulsive about things. If you need to think something out, go off and do so. But don't try to drag others into your inner conflicts.

THE SUN OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Tuesday March 8th at 5:57 A.M. EST this very positive aspect completes. Once again this takes place very early in the morning so its effects will be lessened, unless you are a night person. As with all aspects its effects are stronger as it applies. So try to make use of this on Monday night. Any social gathering while this is applying should fare quite well. It's followed by the Solar Eclipse in Pisces Tuesday evening, and hopefully this will add more energy to usually low vigor of the Dark of the Moon when it takes place.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday March 8th at 8:54 P.M. EST at 18 degrees Pisces 56 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.

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 8th 9:39 A.M. – February 9th 3:31 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours
- February 10th 11:25 P.M. – February 11th 4:56 A.M.
- February 13th 5:32 A.M. – 6:35 A.M.
- February 15th 5:54 A.M. – 9:35 A.M.
- February 17th 11:37 A.M. – 2:24 P.M.
- February 19th 9:36 A.M. – 9:37 P.M. ***Moon is void all day
- February 21st 8:17 P.M. – February 22nd 6:24 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours
- February 24th 9:22 A.M. – 5:41 PM. ***Moon is void all day
- February 26th 6:18 A.M. – February 27th 6:26 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours
- February 29th 2:55 P.M. – 6:56 P.M.
- March 2nd 9:55 P.M. – March 3rd 5:01 A.M. *** Moon is void all night
- March 5th 11:05 A.M. – 11:22 P.M.
- March 7th 3:46 A.M. – 2:08 P.M.
- March 8th 8:54 P.M. – March 9th 2:40P.A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours
- March 11th 1:24 P.M. – 2:44 P.M.
- March 13th 5:46 A.M. – 5:03 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

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