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**LIVING BY STARLIGHT  
an Astrological Newsletter**

**January - February 2016**

**AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

This is the edition of my newsletter when I generally make my predictions for the coming year. We all see the shape of the world around us. As Dylan put it so succinctly many years ago: *You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows*. Obviously there are issues that are disturbing and quite difficult to understand. Some are clearer than others. But many are a question of opinion, and no matter which result I may predict on any given issue there will be many who disagree. And that's fine. It's through conversation and the exchange of ideas that we learn.

**SOME BACKGROUND:**

What we are seeing now is basically the residue of the Cardinal Grand Cross that occurred in April 2014. Please go back to old issues of my newsletter to find a more complete analysis of that aspect. To remind my readers - it consisted of Uranus in opposition to Mars while Pluto was in opposition to Jupiter, all in square at 13 degrees cardinal. That complex transit led to the rise of ISIS, the surge of refugees flooding Europe, the increased anxiety throughout the world, amplified tension in Korea, and the spike in gun violence. It's important that astrology students understand that just because a transit has passed doesn't mean that the effects of that aspect have finished. One transit leads into the next. And we are now seeing the results of the dissipation of that massive build up of tension.

Once those aspects completed we began to see the effects of the current Saturn in square to Neptune, a very confusing transit that creates weakness and a lack of structure.

**So here are my predictions.** And remember, these are not necessarily what I would like, nor am I using my base to forward any personal agenda. These predictions are based on my astrological interpretation as well as my understanding of world events, including financial and political activities. I don't believe that astrology should be separated from life. It is an intricate part of what is going on around us that should be mixed with other forms of knowledge to achieve the clearest interpretations.

**THE ELECTION:**

We will all have to get used to some new language this year. Can you all say: *Madam President?* As my readers know, several months ago I predicted that Hillary would, in fact, be elected. But it will not be an easy transition. No matter who wins in November half this country will be dissatisfied. Please view my article on *The Divided States of America* in last month's newsletter.

**We are still dealing with Saturn (stability, structure, and reality) in square to Neptune (illusion and unreality).** This makes it difficult to see things clearly and is creating a fog around all important issues. It's because of this square that a certain Republican candidate has achieved the level of success he has. And it is why it's been so hard to predict what will eventually be the outcome. Neptune creates great confusion and misdirection. But by November this square will have completed its final pass and some clarity will emerge. Many illusions will dissipate and result in even more disillusionment. We will next face the Saturn - Pluto conjunct coming in 2020, and that aspect will create some very deep rooted and

important changes in our culture. I believe we are now in a holding period when things are getting ready to change radically, but will not do so this year.

There's a good chance that there will be a third party candidate this year. If not, there most likely will be one in 2020. This year it may be Bernie Sanders, Jeb Bush, or another Republican. In any case, throughout our history every time a third party candidate runs it results in the opposite political agenda winning. Teddy Roosevelt didn't care for how Taft was running the county, even though it was Teddy who put him in the White House. So Roosevelt ran on the Bull Moose Party, which led to the election of the opposing candidate, Woodrow Wilson. Ross Perot and Ralph Nader had the same effect when they ran. If the Republicans run a third party candidate, the Democrats will win. If Sanders chooses to challenge Hillary in the election, it would probably have the same effect - the Republicans would win. If both sides take that course of action, then I think Mickey Mouse wins. However, as I said above, **Hillary will be the next president**. So I don't think Sanders will choose to be the spoiler.

#### IT'S THE STUPID ECONOMY:

Those of you who have been following my newsletter know that I've been predicting this downturn in the stock markets for a long time. **Saturn has been in square to Neptune through 2015 and will continue until the end of 2016. The stock markets will continue to do just what I said they would.** They have been going up and down and basically sideways throughout 2015. The indexes closed pretty much at unchanged for this past year. **But 2016 looks like it could be a lot worse.** I expect them to close lower at the end of this coming year than at the beginning. How much lower is the only question? We are in a bear market that has been kept afloat somewhat through lower interest rates, deep pocket speculative investors, and a handful of stocks that continue to rise no matter what the atmosphere. **But this is not a stock market crash. It is a correction, which comes with its own potential problems and long-range results.**

#### OIL:

**As I have been saying for some time - Oil is a dying commodity.** It's dog that will continue to drag on the equities. It will take another generation before we let go, but the writing is on the wall. Most of the world realizes that fossil fuels are over. But because our economy is so deeply entrenched in oil, coal, and gas, as we transition to other sources of energy the economic effects could be devastating. We are already seeing the results of oil prices dropping precipitously. **Will the price of oil rise again? Most certainly.** There will be ups and downs as it tries to find its level. Speculation will continue to create dangerous volatility. **But in the long run oil will only be used in certain industries and by 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries.** Germany has already dedicated itself to being oil-free within a few decades. And its investment into alternative fuel sources shows the commitment. China and India have such bad pollution in their major cities that it has become a public health crises that neither country can long afford to sustain. Only in America is the lobbying so strong that this industry will maintain a hold on our lives long after many other nations have let go.

Oil's price has dropped precipitously, and while we don't like to believe it, much of the world's economy is linked to that one commodity. As oil drops so does the world. At least until the transition to other fuel sources takes hold.

#### CHINA:

**Again, those of you who have followed my writing know that I said that China's bubble would pop, and it has, exactly when and how I predicted several years ago. Just how bad this will be and what effects it will have on the global economy remains to be seen.** It will take at least another year before they can stabilize, and then they will have to do some serious trimming in their extensive growth plans, which will result in another pullback. Expect more manipulation in their currency, the Yuan. They have overinflated their growth for a long time. Now it is all coming home to roost.

As I said above, we are facing the meltdown of the Chinese bubble that I've been predicting for several years. We're seeing the beginnings in our own market. How bad will it be? Last year as we approached the start of Saturn square Neptune I wrote that 2016 was going to be a bad year for the stocks. Though I don't know how bad. We certainly are in a bear market and can expect serious drops in the equities. But a real crash demands a "perfect storm". The Chinese economy is losing serious ground and its plunging stocks and currency are starting to take its toll. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a week they have halted trading on their exchange. The reasons for this potential catastrophe are several.

The Chinese have been overinflating their growth for a long time. Creative bookkeeping and tremendous manipulation has led to a point where it's impossible to know exactly what is going on. There is little transparency in that country and no clear measure of what is really happening. But because our hedge funds and the rest of the world are heavily invested there, the results will be felt throughout the globe. Volatility is increasing, which is a strong indicator of a problem. Japan's Nikkei Stock Volatility Index has risen 43% since the beginning of the year.

If you can cherry-pick stocks carefully you can make money in a bear market. But you must be very cautious. If you are young and have your portfolio in the markets you should probably just leave it there. Remember, the stocks go up about 80% of the time. And when they come down it's almost always a buying opportunity.

Every time there is a conflict between Saturn and an outer planet the stock markets drop. Sometimes they crash, sometimes they have a correction. In 2008 Saturn opposed Uranus exactly on the NYSE Mars, ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup> house in that chart. That led to the crash we all are familiar with. Now we have Saturn in square to Neptune. This is creating a serious fog making it difficult to see reality. It's possible that we are on the verge. If so, it will be a long year. Retirement funds and cash flow will be severely limited. The results will be felt throughout our society.

Many economists, including George Soros believe that we are on the edge of a crash similar to 2008. I don't happen to agree. Soros also predicted a crash in 2011 due to the Greek financial problems and that didn't materialize. But we didn't have a hard aspect to Saturn at the time. Now we do. But that doesn't mean that we are facing a stock market crash. What led to the 2008 crash was the destruction of our housing market, where most people have the majority of their equity.

Wall Street continues to act in irresponsible ways. They are terribly short-sighted and invest your retirement in risky ventures so they can show a profit for the quarter. But there is no long term assessment of those investments. If I've known that the Chinese economy was a bubble, surely the big hedge fund directors have also known. Any with common sense would assume that after the 2008 debacle we would have changed the way we do business. But as the old saying goes, common sense is not that common.

I've been telling my clients and readers for the last year to stay out of the markets and wait for this correction or crash to shake out the phonies. I continue to give that advice.

## **GUN VIOLENCE:**

The issue of guns and who has the right to own them is its own quagmire. At the end of the Civil War Texas passed laws limiting the carrying of weapons. Last month they eliminated those restrictions and became the 45<sup>th</sup> state with a carry-permit. President Obama has decided to take on the congress directly and plans to sign into law certain restrictions on gun ownership.

I'm afraid the end result of this tug of war will not be peaceful and there will be more violent altercations and many, many more mass shootings. This is not an easy problem. The guns aren't going anywhere, and any attempt to rein this in will not be pretty. There are currently more guns in America than people.

As you know, in Oregon a small group who call themselves a militia have taken over federal lands in protest and want those lands returned to individuals so they can be ranched. The profits and use of those lands would then benefit a small group of mostly wealthy land owners, rather than continue as a public area. Woe unto the animals that live there. But this is only the first such action I expect. There will be more confrontations between locals and the federal government in the coming years. The last time I was on Coast to Coast I talked about some difficulties I saw further down the line. **We are heading towards the Saturn - Pluto conjunct in 2020. That may very well be the year of the beginning of the gun wars in America.** What we are witnessing now is just the tip of the iceberg.

## THE FUTURE:

**In 2020 Saturn will conjunct Pluto. When these two planets are in conflict it is an extremely difficult and powerful combination.** This will result in a change in our leadership. **Whoever wins this year will be a one term president.** And because of the split that is happening between the left and the right **there will be a new party created. Call it The American Party.** That has a nice ring to it. The dissatisfaction throughout our nation is at level not seen since the small skirmish in the mid 1860's you may have heard of. The middle class in this country and throughout the world has been devastated. Without a strong center there will be no growth or stability. When there is this much dissatisfaction in the country, things change. We are no longer satisfied with the Republican, or the Democrat party. So we must have a new entity that will address the problems we are facing. Interestingly enough, when there is so much discontent the far right and the far left begin to seem more similar than different. As we approach this Saturn - Pluto aspect the underlying tension will rise more and more to the surface.

Here are just a few examples of worldly events that have coincided with this combination.

**Saturn was in square to Pluto in 1777 during our Revolutionary War.**

**Saturn was in square to Pluto in 1859 as the Civil War approached.**

**Saturn was conjunct to Pluto in 1915 during the First World War.**

**Saturn was in square to Pluto in 1939 - 1940 as the Second World War began.**

This doesn't mean that we are necessarily heading to a major war. But it's showing the underlying stress and animosity that is felt throughout the planet. Each of those wars mentioned above were a result of tension long buried and bubbling under the surface. It took the combination of Saturn and Pluto to create the atmosphere ripe for each conflict to come to the forefront.

We are now in a period when there is serious frustration, fear and anger being repressed in the collective unconscious. ISIS has dominated our news media. It continues to expand and project itself into our society through direct actions, such as the Syria and Iraq wars, and through hidden agendas, such as the escalation of terrorist attacks. How we handle this situation over the coming four years will decide just how bad it gets.

Guns in America have also become a flash point that will come to a head in 2020.

The economic ill will that has been left in the wake of the 2008 crash has created more anger and disappointment than anything else. So many people have felt cheated and left without the resources to fulfill their dreams that we are creating an underground army of disbelievers who simply do not trust anyone. And they have good reason to feel that way.

As I said above, when Saturn is in conflict to an outer planet the economy gets shaky. In 2020 as Saturn conjuncts Pluto we will see the best chance for a financial collapse since 2008. Try to protect yourself and be prepared.

**NEW MOON:**

The New Moon falls on Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 P.M. EST at 19 degrees Capricorn 13 minutes. The Capricorn New Moon represents a need to strengthen the foundation upon which we build for our future. This is often a time of year when we spend more time indoors working on projects and beginning preparation for the new growth that takes place in the spring and summer, not a time of exploration and play. Because Saturn-ruled Capricorn tends to be more concerned with security than expansion, it's better to use this time to stabilize our work. New projects begun now will require more forethought and attention to detail. This is not a time to rely solely on your intuition or experimentation. Make sure there is enough elasticity in your plans to accommodate the changes you will need to make down the road when you are more prone to expand and explore.

In your relationship the same attitude is necessary. Ongoing connections will test their foundation to make certain there is sure-footedness sufficient to last a long time. New relationships will tend to begin slowly and with caution. Without that you will find problems sooner rather than later. You can not pretend things aren't the way they are. Capricorn has little patience for frivolous interaction. Nor is it willing to waste time on things with a limited potential. It needs to know exactly what is what, so you can react accordingly. If you try to kid yourself or ignore the truth about something, it will come back to haunt you down the road. But if you are realistic and recognize what is true and what is needed to fulfill the requirements of the project, relationship, or other entity, you can build a very strong connection that will last a long time. Each sign has its strengths and weaknesses. Capricorn's weakness is a general lack of imagination and impulsiveness. Its strength is the ability to secure solid ground and face the reality of the future.

**VENUS TRINES URANUS:**

On Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:11 P.M. EST romance may be more experimental, but because this is a trine it can be accomplished without upsetting the status quo. Change is important in ongoing connections. Sometimes those changes come through jarring or unexpected ways that can be disconcerting. With this trine you can make some interesting changes in how you relate to someone without disturbing the communication. This would be a good evening for a date or for any creative project. A concert, museum, or other artistic encounter may be very stimulating and open your consciousness in ways you hadn't expected. Any social gathering will also be quite rewarding.

**THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

On Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:05 A.M. EST a willful attitude will be prevalent. This morning many people will be apt to argue or act in a commanding and unyielding way. This is a good time to get your point across, and if you have been delaying an important conversation this may be the time to get into it. But recognize that both you and the other person may find it difficult to bend. If you're up to the challenge, then confront the issues. They will be clearly expressed and you will know what you have to contend with. But compromise is difficult, so it may prove to be a battle of wills. If you're not up to it, I would wait until this passes and then look for a better time for the discussion. Because we are working with a retrograde Mercury at the moment much of the willfulness will be internalized, so look within yourself and see if you are the one being unbending. If so, you have some control over your actions.

**MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:**

Also on Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 P.M. EST this very positive and creative transit completes. If you had problems communicating this morning while the Sun was conjunct Mercury, you may find it much easier to get your point across now. And you will probably find a more open-minded attitude in both you and your adversary. This is a good aspect for all conversations, but there is a tendency to avoid difficulties and you may not be as realistic about things as you think you are.

Travel is favored. Any trip, short or long that you begin now will be rewarding and expand your consciousness. Because Mercury is in retrograde you still need to use caution and extra time for your connections. But once the journey begins you will find pleasure and new ideas. This only lasts a few hours, but as with many issues with astrology the start of the project is often the energy you will deal with throughout the period. People will be more open-minded and compromise will certainly be easier to achieve than it was earlier in the day.

### VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:10 A.M. EST this very pleasant aspect will complete. The main problem with this square is the tendency to overdo things or overindulge in too much. This includes food, drink, entertainment, sex, or other pleasures. With a little self-control you can handle this. However, because this happens around midnight (on the east coast) you may find that the wine flows too easily and it's hard to put the breaks on. Use caution, but enjoy this square. It's not like most squares in that it will not feel limiting and restrictive. But that's exactly its good and bad points. You can break out under this energy, which may bring you much pleasure and excitement. But you can also easily step over a line and do too much. How you handle it is up to you.

### MARS TRINES NEPTUNE:

Also on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:02 A.M. EST this trine comes along. Mars and Neptune do not do well together. Mars is the ego, assertiveness and energy. It's used to being able to act freely and without restrictions. Neptune has little regard for anything on the physical plane. When these two are in contact it is usually the Mars that suffers from a lack of focus and energy. Even the trine will be a challenge to handle in a positive and creative way. But because it is a trine it will be easier to deal with than the conjunct, opposition, or square. The best way to use this is to recognize the limitations that Neptune may be putting on your will. If you can put the ego in the backseat you may find this to be a very useful and productive time. This completes in the early morning, so its effects may be diluted quite a bit. If you are able to work with this it can be a very creative time, especially for artists.

### THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:28 A.M. EST we enter the fixed part of winter. January and February are the months when we usually feel the full force of winter. Saturn rules Capricorn, and I still give it co-rulership of Aquarius. So this will be a continuation of the need for a strong foundation. But this sign is more open to changes and exploration than Capricorn.

Aquarius rules the 11<sup>th</sup> house and issues involving groups and large entities, such as corporations. These will be in the forefront in many ways. You may not feel as though your individuality is as important as usual. As always, if you follow the river and don't try to swim against the current, you will accomplish more. Try to focus on things you do with others, rather than on your own. If you can, you may find that together you can all push that rock further in a shorter time than you ever could by yourself.

### MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:28 A.M. EST this difficult aspect will complete. This combination can produce feelings of nervousness, irritability and erratic behavior. Caution is called for in communications and travel. Even if you usually are reserved in your speech, if this square hits your chart you may not have your usual filters. You may say what's on your mind without thinking it through first. So try to be aware and don't let your mouth rule your brain. Accidents are quite common. If you're traveling at night as this approaches, especially in a car, you must be careful and pay attention. Sudden events are possible, and even if you're being as cautious as you can, the other person may not be.

Patience is not a trait of this aspect, so drive defensively and expect the unexpected. On a positive side, this square will stimulate our minds and could produce some interesting and unusual thoughts and ideas. If you can focus them in some way you may be pleasantly surprised at what comes to you. But those thoughts will come so quickly and erratically that you might not even remember them shortly after. Preparation is important for all creative processes, so perhaps having a recording device would help capture the elusive genius this can create. All devices, including computers, phones, and other technology is prone to breakdowns and other problems. Backup all important documents in a redundant fashion.

### MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:04 A.M. EST we will all be more willful and compulsive in our thoughts and communications. Because we are dealing with the remnants of the Uranus - Pluto square, the inner planets will continue to aspect each of those outer planets for some time. As such, we will be dealing with pairs of transits like this one. First Uranus will aspect the Mercury causing the nervous and erratic atmosphere mentioned in the aspect above. Then Pluto takes over and creates the deeper and more probing mood that this conjunct signifies. Be careful what you say, and how you say it. You can't help but delve deeply into any subject that arises. And most of us will not be satisfied with superficial answers. But if we can dig into a subject without having an unbending and stubborn attitude associated with Pluto we can accomplish much more. Try to see if you are being too willful and obstinate. If so, try to lighten things up a bit.

### VENUS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:32 P.M. EST the planet of money and love enters the most stoic and reserved of the signs. While Venus is journeying through this earth sign we will all be more reticent and you may feel that people are more aloof and standoffish. As with all transits there is a positive reason for this. It may be time for you to back off how you act in your relationships. This is a time to examine and test certain connections to see if they are still valid. If something has outlived its usefulness you may realize it now. This is also a time to be more reserved about finances. After weeks of Venus transiting unrestrained Sagittarius it is now time to view your resources more conservatively and to make plans for your security. It's not a time for frivolous spending or for purchasing anything that doesn't have a purpose. If you need something you may be able to get it at T.J. Max for a third what you would pay at Macy's for the very same item. While that may seem like common sense, as an old girlfriend used to tell me: *common sense is not that common.*

### FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:46 P.M. EST at 3 degrees Leo 29 minutes. Leo rules the stage. Its energy wants to be in the public and have an audience. We have witnessed a number of severe snowstorms on Leo full moons in the past. Will we be faced with one now? I don't know. I'm not a meteorologist. But as an astrologer I would say it's certainly possible. At the very least you can expect people to act out in ways they don't usually, and to overdo certain issues. If something is on your mind you would be better off saying it clearly and without subterfuge. But don't overreact to what others say or do. That would just add more fuel to the fire. This Full Moon is actually a good time to present something to the public. A new song, play, or other creative venture may find a more receptive audience around this Full Moon. People are looking for anything that is outgoing and exciting, so give it to them. As with all Full Moons there is a word of advice. Use some caution and don't walk into a situation that is potentially explosive or unrestrained. Let it go for a few days until this energy dissipates. But if you need to do something on stage, so to speak, this is the time to do so. Leo is also the sign of the individual, and it may be better to work alone than in a group. Once your solo work is completed you can integrate it into the collective.

### MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

**On Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:50 P.M. EST** Mercury finally turns around. Three times a year this mischievous little devil plays havoc with our lives. And while there is much debate over the so-called shadow period of a retrograde, I have found that once Mercury turns around it's okay to deal with the issues we don't under the backward motion of this planet. It will be safer to buy a new computer, cell phone, car, or other technological device. Many things that have been delayed will now start to move forward. But while Mercury continues in this sign there will still be a chance to work out some of the difficulties that have presented themselves over the part month or so.

Because this retrograde has been primarily in the sign of Capricorn we have all been dealing with issues of structure and support. Mercury will continue in Capricorn until mid-February, giving us an opportunity to examine a number of things and make slow, direct choices that will have a long term effect on our lives. The retrograde internalizes our thinking and can make us all more introverted and thoughtful. This is especially true when traveling through this restrictive sign. The problems you have been facing regarding your stability and long-term plans will now come to the surface and demand attention. As Mercury turns around you may find that there are some decisions regarding financial or personal concerns that may force you to make choices you may not have considered only a month ago. Things have changed during this retrograde, and it's up to us to change with them. Mercury's extended stay in this sign has significantly increased the importance of facing reality as it is, not as we wish it would be.

Once Mercury leaves Capricorn and enters Aquarius on February 13<sup>th</sup> we will not have the time to sift through the information being given now, nor have the luxury of delaying things. It's important that we all make some serious decisions and implement them as this planet moves through this Saturn-ruled sign. Once it leaves we will have lost a golden opportunity to think in a concise and controlled manner. Our thoughts will become more adventurous and innovative, but with less organization. The key to astrology is using the energy that is before you to your best advantage. Every placement of Mercury has something to offer, so use each in the best way you can.

#### **MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:**

**On Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:52 A.M. EST** many of us will be willful and unbending. There is a strong desire to get to the truth under this conjunct, and with Mercury just turning around you can expect a great deal of information to be exposed. Because this aspect completes so early in the morning its immediate effects will be felt more the night before as the transit applies. People will demand to know exactly what is going on and to expose as much as possible. Superficial answers will not suffice, and you will find that conversations can take a deep and unexpected turn. If you don't want to hear the truth, don't ask the question. But if you are willing to see what is, then by all means make that phone call. This aspect can lead to arguments and deep disagreements. Road-rage is also possible if someone is holding things in too tightly. Drive defensively and do not let your ego control your actions. Also, it's best to let things out rather than attempt to hide them. Pluto is often the agent of exposing hidden agendas, and it would be best to be proactive and resent them how you would like to. Otherwise they will come out anyway, but it could be in a more nasty and derisive manner.

#### **VENUS SEXTILES NEPTUNE:**

**Also on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 A.M. EST** this creative energy will complete. This is a very positive aspect, especially for any creative or spiritual endeavors. While this isn't a very powerful transit, its effects will be felt and can be used to smooth over some rough spots. This falls in between Mercury's aspects to Pluto and Uranus, so you can expect most people to have a strong opinion and express it openly. Take an hour or so to meditate or indulge in something artistic and imaginative.

#### **MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:**

**On Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:41 P.M. EST** this harsh and potentially explosive aspect completes. I suggest keeping an eye on your mood and that of those around you. This square can easily set someone off



if it's afflicting their personal chart. Arguments are common, and there is little filtering between the thought and the speech. Communications of all sorts will be sudden and volatile. Don't get into a dispute unless you are willing to face the consequences. Accidents are also possible, so use caution and act in a defensive way, especially while traveling.

### **MARS SEXTILES PLUTO:**

**On Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:47 A.M. EST** this positive and quite useful transit will complete. Because this falls in the early morning its effects will be lessened. But it will set the mood for the night before and the morning. If there is a project you wish to advance that involves other people's resources this is a good time to push it forward. You will find that others are more likely to help you, but only if they feel that there is something in it for them. This is not a transit that appreciates selfishness. It works best in groups when everyone has a stake in the outcome. Because this is followed by the Sun sextile Saturn mentioned below, this will be a day when much can be accomplished.

### **THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:**

**Also on Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:18 P.M. EST** this very positive and functional aspect will allow us all to view things from a more realistic place. While this isn't a very exciting transit, it can help us build a stronger foundation and examine things from a useful and clear perspective. This is a good day to get your work done and make serious plans for the future. Try not to waste this aspect. Focus on your most pressing issues and look for ways to improve things. Get your paperwork and other mundane tasks out of the way. If you've been anxious to start a new project or take an existing one to the next level, this might be a good day to do so. However, we are on a waning moon and it might be best to lay down the foundation and structure of your project now and then begin the new activity after the New Moon on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Because of the Mars sextile Pluto mentioned above this is a good day to take on long range plans and seek assistance from others. It should be easier than usual to find common ground and work towards similar goals.

### **VENUS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:**

**On Friday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:12 P.M. EST** intensity in relationships will be the key phrase. People will be rather deep and you may find them delving into personal situations with serious gusto. Nobody will be satisfied with superficial answers, especially in the more intimate relationships. This is not a good day to begin a new connection unless you are ready to commit yourself. Pluto is anything but subtle, and it isn't the most patient of planetary energy. Hidden agendas may be revealed, and if you want to know what someone really thinks, this may be the day it is unveiled to you. Financial matters will also be more serious than usual. If there is a money issue or disagreement it may take a rather personal turn today. Do not take on every battle that is offered. Pick and choose your fights carefully. You won't have enough energy to handle them all, and some may simply not be worth your effort. If there is a relationship that is important enough to fight for, then go ahead and use this conjunct to your benefit. But be prepared to hear exactly what the other person thinks about things. You won't be able to easily extricate yourself from the argument, and you might just hear something you hadn't planned on.

### **THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:**

**On Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:39 A.M. EST** we will all be more open-minded and ready for changes. This is a very positive and useful transit. It's a time to take the blinders off and look at what the world has to offer. If you can do that, you may be surprised at what is revealed. Try to do some new and exciting things today. It's not a good time to sit in front of a computer. You'd be better off getting out and engaging in imaginative and innovative projects. Relationships will also be open to new concepts, so share this exciting transit with someone. You may be able to take the relationship to a new level or at the very least have an adventure together. Because this coincides with Mercury trine Jupiter mentioned below this

is a very good day for all new and expansive ideas.

### MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:

Also on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 P.M. EST this wonderfully positive and expansive aspect will complete. New thoughts and ideas will be flowing and it will be easier to express them. Most people will be quite chatty. If you've been waiting to have an important conversation this is the day to have it. Travel is favored, whether it is a short jaunt or the beginning of an extended journey. Even a long walk or a drive in the country will free your mind and open you up to new ideas. Some of us could be a bit overwhelmed with the number of communiqués we receive. Try not to be swamped by them. You don't have to answer them all today. But you should look through them carefully. There could be an important email or text that should be dealt with immediately.

### VENUS SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:03 P.M. EST love will take a decidedly strange turn. Expect the unexpected and keep an open mind. Because this is a square, the energy will come at us in a strong and perhaps difficult manner. If so, try to be rational about whether what is being offered makes sense or is just a passing flirt. A relationship begun with this square is often exciting, but unstable and may lack the foundation upon which to build a future. If someone catches your eye, it might be better to wait a day or two before committing too much of yourself. This is a good day to take in any form of art or creativity that is somewhat unusual to your customary taste. If you are a big fan of classical music you might go to a jazz club. If you like modern art, perhaps a visit to the Met would open your consciousness to other forms of art. Whatever you do today do not follow your usual path or you may miss an opportunity to experience something new and wonderful.

### THE SUN SQUARES MARS:

On Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:08 A.M. EST caution is called for. This is a very energetic aspect, and if it's focused you can accomplish much in a short time. But it is easy to be distracted and waste the opportunity. This can also be an explosive energy with a lot of ego involved. Be careful as you tread through life. Many people will be looking for a confrontation, and as I often say, don't let them have it with you. Try to sidestep any unnecessary altercations. If you're feeling some anger or pent up frustration you would do well to expunge it through exercise, meditation, or other forms of release. If this square sets off your chart it could result in an accident. But that would be a result of not releasing the pressure. Pay attention and you can avoid most difficulties.

### VENUS SEXTILES MARS:

Also on Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:01 A.M. EST this pleasant connection between the male and female planets will bring us a lovely Sunday morning when we can all interrelate in a harmonious way. This would be a good day to ask that significant other or new paramour out for brunch. This is also a creative energy that can be used for any artistic project or for enjoying the imaginative work of others.

### DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:39 A.M. EST at 19 degrees Aquarius 16 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.*

January 10<sup>th</sup> 12:39 P.M. - 3:23 P.M.

January 11<sup>th</sup> 8:09 P.M. - January 12<sup>th</sup> 6:53 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

January 14<sup>th</sup> 11:31 A.M. - 9:48 P.M.

January 16<sup>th</sup> 6:26 P.M. - January 17<sup>th</sup> 12:48 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void all night

January 19<sup>th</sup> 1:50 A.M. - 4:13 A.M.

January 21<sup>st</sup> 3:01 A.M. - 8:28 A.M.

January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:21 A.M. - 2:21 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

January 24<sup>th</sup> 9:51 P.M. - January 25<sup>th</sup> 10:46 PM. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

January 27<sup>th</sup> 7:11 P.M. - January 28<sup>th</sup> 9:59 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void all night

January 29<sup>th</sup> 8:34 P.M. - January 30<sup>th</sup> 10:50 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours

February 1<sup>st</sup> 7:35 P.M. - February 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:50 A.M. \*\*\* Moon is void all night

February 4<sup>th</sup> 5:04 A.M. - 7:44 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

February 6<sup>th</sup> 10:54 A.M. - February 7<sup>th</sup> 12:59 A.M.

*February 8<sup>th</sup> 9:39 A.M. - February 9<sup>th</sup> 3:31 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 24 hours*

*February 10<sup>th</sup> 11:25 P.M. - February 11<sup>th</sup> 4:55 A.M.*

*February 13<sup>th</sup> 5:32 A.M. - 6:35 A.M.*

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