LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

March - April 2016

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

The start of the month has a plethora of Pisces and Neptunian energy that will require some focus and concentration. The Sun, New Moon, Mercury, Venus and Neptune will be in that sign. Mercury will be conjunct Neptune as the month begins as well. So it's important not to be stubborn and assume you're seeing everything clearly. You may not be. This is a month when charity and understanding are most important. Use that Pisces energy to help others. Later in the month the Sun, Mercury and Venus will enter Aries and the collective tone will change radically. Change with it. One of the most important things that astrology gives us is the ability to recognize what is happening around us and to adjust our own attitude and actions so we aren't fighting against the current.

Jupiter trines Pluto on March 16th. This has been an underlying supportive aspect that has helped keep our country and financial markets from worse trouble. **It will return June 26th** and we should all be thankful for its presence. This isn't as powerful as the squares or conjuncts, but it has helped stabilize the stocks where they could easily have collapsed under the strain of the Saturn – Neptune square. This has also helped us avoid many more serious struggles in our personal relationships.

Jupiter squares Saturn March 23rd. It will return May 26th. This is a difficult aspect, but one that can be used quite successfully if approached with the proper attitude. Jupiter tends to overdo things and can easily blow something out of proportion. It also has little use for boundaries or limitations of any sort. Saturn can be overly limiting and prevent growth when it is necessary. When these two are in conflict a compromise must be reached or little will be accomplished. Jupiter will be restricted by Saturn, while Saturn will be stimulated by Jupiter. The end result can be a strong foundation (Saturn) upon which we can build some new expansions (Jupiter). While this square will probably result in a temporary downward turn for the equities, it can lay down a stabilizing bottom based on reality that will allow for future growth.

Saturn retrogrades on March 25th till August 13th. We are entering the yearly period when this planet of karma moves backwards. This is an extended time when certain things will be more difficult to work with. Traditionally this is considered a bad time to begin a business, but I have not found that to be true. Certain professions that are Saturn based probably shouldn't be started now, such as real estate or banks. But many highly successful businesses were begun while Saturn was in retrograde. So if you are ready to start something that isn't a Saturn-ruled industry you shouldn't have any real difficulties because of this transit.

You may find it hard to raise money or get the backing you need from banks or other institutions, but if you have all of that in place and things are ready to go, there's no reason to wait five months to begin. Of course you should make sure that you have the sufficient funding and foundation to build upon, or you might have difficulty down the line.

Bernie Sanders had a surprising victory over Hillary Clinton in Michigan. That shows just how much this nation is split, not only between the parties but within them as well. I still believe that Hillary will win based on my astrological analysis. But either way, I'm glad for the debates and differences in the parties. They are forcing discussions about very important issues that are usually swept under the rug. Now we are being forced to look at some unpleasant and difficult subjects that may result in a better government no matter who wins. Many things are being brought out into the light and all of the candidates will be scrutinized for their beliefs and potential. And that is a good thing.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Tuesday March 8th at 8:54 P.M. EST at 18 degrees Pisces 56 minutes, and it's a Solar Eclipse and a Void of Course Moon. This will be an interesting month. The Pisces New Moon is a time when the material world takes a backseat to the ethereal. Many of us will be more concerned with our spiritual side and any projects or plans that are aimed in that direction should be put on the front burner. This doesn't mean that we should ignore the "real world" only that our perspective will be more concerned with the spiritual and we should consider the results of our actions not only on the material level but the human one as well.

Because this is an eclipse a certain amount of caution is called for. The eclipses are times of concern, and they should be respected. I've seen them create havoc in people's lives if they fall on a sensitive point in someone's chart. And they can represent world events for a nation or international situation. But mostly they seem to show a change in direction. For example, we may see this election mess turn in an unusual and unexpected way. Because this is also a Void of Course New Moon things will not work out as expected. We will see some surprises and possibly a redefinition for either party or the country as a whole.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

On Friday March 11th at 1:01 A.M. EST this rather intense transit will complete. The day or so leading up to this aspect may be fraught with confusion and misdirection. There can be many misunderstandings and it's important that you clarify things and make sure you understand what's being said. This is not a good day for important discussions, especially about business. I would not make permanent decisions until this aspect separates. Clarity will come in a day or so, but there is a lot of Pisces and Neptune energy around this month, so use caution in general.

VENUS ENTERS PISCES:

On Saturday March 12th at 5:24 A.M. EST Venus joins the Sun, Mercury and Neptune in the last sign of the zodiac. Romantic issues may be confusing, and you should be sure you're seeing your partner clearly. There will be a feeling of empathy and a desire to help others. But we must separate the personal from the

collective. You can be generous and caring as long as your own situation is secure and stable. Finances may also be difficult to see clearly. This is not a good month for making long-range plans for your security or retirement. It's also not the best time to buy a house, start a new business, or commit to any financial matter that will be difficult to extricate yourself from. There is a very sweet and gentle side to Pisces and Venus feels comfortable there. But because of the number of planets involved things may be too over the top and you should be sure of what you are getting into before making promises you may regret down the line.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Monday March 14th at 3:26 P.M. EDT this restrictive and limiting aspect completes. Because of the ongoing Saturn – Neptune square in the sky the inner planets set off both luminaries in short order. Where the conjunct to Neptune on March 11th was confusing and foggy, this one can be too structured and leave little room for innovation or imagination. Many people will be feeling this square, especially if it hits sensitive points in your chart. It's easy to feel down or discouraged, but if this is used correctly it can be a day when you look at your life and plans in a very realistic and controlled manner, which is not a bad thing. Just don't expect to be overly enthusiastic or fun-oriented. This is a work aspect and you should concentrate on your obligations and responsibilities. This aspect will be good for any serious conversation, but not for socializing or a light-hearted chat. People will tend to be very focused on what's most important and have little time or patience for frivolity.

VENUS SQUARES MARS:

Also on Monday March 14th at 4:48 P.M. EDT the male and female planets are in conflict. This isn't a great day for relationships between the sexes. There can be misunderstandings and a feeling of frustration that comes from an inability to express your needs. Inappropriate aggression is often a side-effect, especially if you can't ask for what you want. With Mars transiting through Sagittarius now there is little control of the ego and boundaries are difficult to define. Try to be sensitive with the people in your life and recognize that they too probably have some issues they're dealing with. A gentle hand can accomplish more than a fist.

MERCURY SEXTILES PLUTO & OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Tuesday March 15th at 2:54 A.M. & 5:42 A.M. EDT these two positive aspects will increase our mental capacity and begin the day with some enthusiasm and optimism. This is a good day for any important conversations or for setting up plans and goals. There is depth to the Pluto aspect that will allow us to delve into any subject in a serious, but usable way. The opposition to Jupiter is expansive and can open your consciousness to new ideas and ways of looking at any ongoing situation or problem that has been hard to work through. Don't limit your thoughts, but rather open your mind to anything that is offered. Travel of any sort will be favored, so if you can get away for a few hours it might help clear out some cobwebs and help you see the potential around you. This will set the course for today, and with Jupiter in trine to Pluto tomorrow we have a short respite from the difficulties we have been experiencing of late.

JUPITER TRINES PLUTO:

On Wednesday March 16th at 4:26 P.M. EDT this powerful and positive transit completes. While this has been applying we have all had a chance to increase our understanding of what's going on underneath the surface. There is a better potential for group activities to achieve success and for the trading markets to shore up their foundation. But this in itself isn't sufficient to reverse the recent loses in the equities. This is the end of the Sun's journey through Pisces, and it begins anew tomorrow as it enters Aries on the celestial New Year, and this is a wonderful transit to help end this year's cycle on an upbeat note. This trine has helped keep things in balance for some time, and has helped prevent any major collapse in the financial world. While things aren't great, and we continue to see the stocks move sideways, they haven't crumbled, and that's something to be thankful for. This will return June 26th for the final pass, so we have another few months of this underlying support.

THE SUN ENTERS ARIES:

On Sunday March 20th at 12:31 A.M. EDT we celebrate the astrological New Year. We are all beginning a new cycle and this is always a time of some hope and optimism. By now you should have completed some projects that have been lingering and should be setting your sights on new ones. Take a moment to review your life and your plans and see which are worth carrying over into this new period and which should be dropped. If something just isn't working out the way you had hoped this is a time to let it go. The more realistic we are about our goals the better our chances are of bringing them to fruition. Now we are heading into the Aries energy that demands innovation and forward motion. This cardinal fire sign has little patience and often leaps before it looks. Try to use some common sense and plan out your next move. If you use the Aries energy properly you can get a lot of things moving. It is the initiator of the zodiac. A time to push and prod until movement is made. It's not a time of contemplation or caution, so don't expect the world to be very compassionate or careful. But you should still keep an eye on how you handle things and act with prudence and practicality.

VENUS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:

Also on Sunday March 20th at 1:46 P.M. EDT this somewhat confusing aspect will complete. Relationships in particular will be difficult and misunderstandings abound. If you're beginning a new relationship under this energy you should be careful and make sure you understand just what you and the other person really want from it. Communication is the key to any successful connection, so talk things out. It's easy to be fooled by someone's demeanor and you may not be able to get to the truth. Still you're better off trying than taking things at face value. I suggest that if you are starting a new romance or friendship you give it some time to show its true nature before committing too much to it. This is also a day when finances could be confusing as well. Money seems to just disappear when Neptune is involved, so keep an eye on it. One more word of advice – over indulgence in food and drink is very common, so be careful how much alcohol or other stimuli you consume.

MERCURY ENTERS ARIES:

On Monday March 21st at 8:19 P.M. EDT until April 5th at 7:10 P.M. EDT Mercury joins the Sun and

Uranus in this fire sign. People will be apt to speak in a direct and at times harsh tone of voice. There is little patience in conversations, and that may be difficult to accept. But you will probably hear the truth and then you can act accordingly. Use some caution for the next few weeks while traveling. There is a tendency to act first and think second, and with the Mars energy of Aries being to present an underlying anger could take effect. Don't overreact to every little slight or dig. Pick and choose your arguments carefully and try to find the patience to think things through before responding.

JUPITER SQUARES SATURN:

On Wednesday March 23rd at 6:15 A.M. EDT this powerful configuration completes. This will return May 26th. We have been dealing with this energy for some time. It's a limiting and at times frustrating aspect, but it has a very positive purpose. At times Jupiter can overdo things and stretch us to the limit. Saturn can be too restrictive and prevent any new or expansive ideas. When they are in square there is the opportunity to use the two energies in tandem, allowing the Saturn to put boundaries around Jupiter's need for growth, while giving Jupiter a chance to stretch Saturn's usually repressive attitude and let it see new horizons. If you use this square correctly you can move forward in a slow and steady fashion, thus giving your plans and ideas the structure it needs while still letting it grow. This is a difficult day, and we may all feel the repression of Saturn, but if you open your eyes you will recognize that there is purpose to the sideways motion this creates. Slow and steady, as they say, will eventually get you where you need to be.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday March 23rd at 8:01 A.M. EDT at 3 degrees Libra 17 minutes, and it is a Lunar Eclipse. The eclipses are powerful, there's no doubt about it. They block out the light and at times we feel as though we are stumbling in the dark. They often bring an end to issues and relationships that have outlived their usefulness. That makes them frightening to many. But what's the point of continuing something that isn't doing you service? Holding onto the status quo out of fear is no answer. Having the strength of character to face new things and letting go of the old and worn out will serve you much better in the long run. Libra is all about relationships, so this Lunar Eclipse will have a strong influence on many of our connections. I have seen amazing results occur on the eclipses, and although the events were often harsh and unpleasant, the end consequences have proven both positive and necessary. Don't fear change, embrace it.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

Also on Wednesday March 23rd at 4:11 A.M. EDT willfulness in communication is to be expected. Many people will say exactly what's on their mind. If you're willing to hear it, this can be a positive and useful day. Certainly any important conversation should be productive, and if you can deal with the resulting clarity it will bring, face the situation and clear the air. Short journeys will bring a lot of pleasure and help you keep an open mind. There will be a lot of mental activity and it's up to you to make use of it in a positive way.

MERCURY TRINES MARS:

th

On Thursday March 24 at 6:45 P.M. EDT another day of strong mental activity and communication will continue the energy we felt yesterday. There will be an assertive tone in most people's voice, and some aggression is to be expected. But because this is a positive trine it will be easier to use and direct where it is needed. This is a day to say what's on your mind and get to the point as quickly and directly as possible. Egos will be very much involved in things, so try to make sure yours doesn't overwhelm your common sense. This is also a good day for traveling, and a short jaunt to the country or a long walk in town may be just what is needed. This is not a day to sit around the house in front of a computer. You should get out into the world and explore.

SATURN RETROGRADES:

On Friday March 25th at 6:01 A.M. EDT until August 13th Saturn begins its yearly backward trip. For the next five months this planet will internalize its energy. What that means is that while Saturn continues to be the most prominent energy in our material world, as it rules our structure, foundation and status, while in retrograde it will demand that we all look inwardly to see how our internal foundation is holding up. Are there issues within you about your personality and your sense of self-worth that require your attention? If so, what can you do to make changes so that you will better integrate with the outside world? Traditionally this is considered a bad time to begin a business. I find that to be true in many cases, but there are very successful companies that were born with Saturn in retrograde. A lot has to do with what type of industry it is part of. I certainly wouldn't begin a real estate business under this aspect, nor would I start a bank or other financial company. But opening a cupcake shop may not be a problem. A retrograde planet does not prevent us from using the energy of that planet; it just denotes an underlying theme of how best to project its force. Saturn in Rx will often limit the kind of financial growth we associate with certain businesses such as banking, but it will not prevent a band from being successful in the arts, or a brilliant designer from achieving recognition in the clothing world. I am more concerned with the aspects to Saturn that we are dealing with this year, including the squares to Jupiter and Neptune. They will have a more difficult effect on our society.

VENUS OPPOSES JUPITER:

Also on Friday March 25th at 7:58 A.M. EDT this delightful and overindulgent aspect will begin the day with a jolt of lazy enthusiasm. This can be a day when we overdo things and eat or drink too much. There is an underlying lethargy that may make many of us put our feet up and take naps. But this isn't a transit that should be wasted. Get out and do things. This is a very sociable energy and it can be quite creative. If you aren't involved in an artistic venture, then go out and see a show, museum or other endeavor. Certainly we will all be prone to enjoy the pleasures of life the night before this aspect completes and into this morning. Relationships fare quite well with this transit, and it's possible that you may become infatuated with someone if this sets off your chart just right. However, because of the ongoing Jupiter – Saturn square Venus will also be in conflict with Saturn later today (see below). So expect the mood to change as the morning progresses. This is a very sociable and outgoing transit, so take advantage of it. Once it passes and we head into the Venus square Saturn those outgoing feelings will fade quickly.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Friday March 25th at 12:48 P.M. EDT this rather grumpy aspect will put a limit on the Venus opposite Jupiter mentioned above. Expect the energy to change as this applies. This is a transit that will make us all more realistic about our romances and financial matters. Where we may have spent like crazy last night, today we are looking at our wallets and scratching our heads trying to remember where that hundred dollar bill disappeared to. This is a good transit for looking at your closest connections and making some hard decisions. I wouldn't plan a first date or a party today. You will be more interested in facing your obligations than dancing your ass off.

THE SUN TRINES MARS:

On Saturday March 26th at 6:33 A.M. EDT a lot of energy will be pushed out into the world. Use it to your best advantage. Many people will be outgoing and chatty, and any physical activity will be positive and productive. This is a sociable aspect and you should be with your close people. But egos will be prominent and even though this is a positive aspect, there is a chance of some disagreements or some people acting in a pushy and aggressive manner. Because it's a trine it will be easier to sidestep any overly assertive actions. But you should still use a little caution and not take things for granted.

VENUS SEXTILES PLUTO:

Also on Saturday March 26th at 7:10 A.M. EDT this sextile offers us a chance to delve into our relationships without upsetting the status quo too much. With this and the Sun trine Mars mentioned above this is a day to look at your close associations and make some adjustments in how you are relating. Discussions can be deep without being destructive. You may get some real answers to serious topics and can use that information to improve your friendships and romantic connections.

MERCURY TRINES SATURN:

On Tuesday March 29th at 11:02 P.M. EDT Today we will all be realistic about our lives. There is some limitation to your thoughts and communications, but not in an overly restrictive way. We are just being cautious and focused on the important issues. Conversations will be direct and there is a desire to get to the bottom of things. Work and obligations will take precedent over anything frivolous. There is little time for play, and responsibilities will be most important but this won't bring on the heaviness we experience with the conjunct or square of these two planets. It's just a day to get things done and to put your paperwork in order.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Wednesday March 30th at 10:52 A.M. EDT people will be willful and you can expect some power struggles as we all try to get our point across. This may be a difficult day for communications of all sorts. Pluto demands that we dig deeply into any subject and it will not accept superficial answers. That in itself isn't a bad thing. In fact, we are apt to uncover some things that have been hidden or camouflaged allowing us to see the truth behind the façade. But this square also makes it hard to find compromises and many arguments may ensue. Don't fight every battle. Pick and choose those that are important enough for you to deal with. This is followed immediately by Mercury conjunct Uranus, so caution is called for the next few days

especially while traveling.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Thursday March 31st at 4:49 P.M. EDT this intense and potentially explosive transit completes. With Pluto and Uranus being set off by Mercury it requires that we all pay close attention to what's happening around us. Mercury rules communications of all sorts as well as travel. Both of those areas much be approached directly and clearly. This conjunct can create outbursts and irritability that may be difficult to defuse once it begins. If you have a temper this could easily set you off, especially if this conjunct hits your chart. Any anger you are feeling must be recognized or it will seep out of you and could lead to damaging or even dangerous situations. Caution while traveling is very important. Even if you aren't feeling tense or angry the other person may be. If you are driving or even taking a walk you must be aware of your surroundings and be protective. Conversations could take a sudden twist and you may find that the simplest discussion might turn into a screaming match. Walk away from those that aren't worth your time. And find some outlets for any pent up tension you may be feeling.

THE SUN TRINES SATURN:

On Tuesday April 5th at 12:09 P.M. EDT we have a day of focused attention and stability. This is a good time to put things in order or discuss plans with someone. This trine allows us to use our energy in constructive ways, so take advantage of it. With both Venus and Mercury changing signs this is a day of movement and alterations in attitude. This trine should help make that transition smoother. But you must use the trines and sextiles or they just pass as an easy day. You want to make sure you get the most out of this by using it proactively and aiming your attention and energy into constructive directions.

VENUS ENTERS ARIES:

Also on Tuesday April 5th at 12:51 P.M. EDT until April 29th Venus enters this Mars ruled sign. Romance will take a more assertive tone for the next few weeks. Try not to be overly aggressive in love or friendships. While Venus doesn't feel all that comfortable in Aries it will be more direct and action oriented. This can be a very useful aspect, especially for those who feel shy or find it difficult to assert themselves. But don't overdo it. It's also easy to be pushy and too demanding without realizing it. If you find a good balance between passion and assertion, this can work out well. But if you are too Martian in your relationships you may push others away or make them defensive. This aspect is good for beginning any creative venture or for presenting an artistic creation to others. But again, don't be overly aggressive about it or you may alienate your audience.

MERCURY ENTERS TAURUS:

Also on Tuesday April 5th at 7:10 P.M. EDT Mercury enters this fixed earth sign. On the positive side this position will make us all more conservative and careful in our discussions and thinking. After a month of Mercury racing through Aries without much thought, now it will meander through this sign in an attempt to rethink some of what has gone on the past weeks. However, thoughts, ideas and communications may slow

down too much now and there is the possibility of stubbornness. Try to keep an open mind and don't get bogged down in the muck of Taurus' slow moving cautiousness. This placement is good for going over things you may have begun last month and double checking your facts and conclusions. But if you do find yourself overly cautious or find communications difficult you may need to spur your ideas on. Coffee may help.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Wednesday April 6th at 4:10 P.M. EDT we end this lunar cycle with this hard aspect. This can be a day of arguments and power struggles. The Sun represents the will, and Pluto is often the barrier of that will, so it might be hard to find compromises or common ground. As with most Pluto transits you must be careful not to get bogged down in useless debates or conflicts. That would only waste this energy. If you are careful you can use this square in a positive manner. There is little patience for superficiality, so anything that must be discussed and brought out into the light will be. If it's done properly it can help clear the air about many issues that are underground. But if you take on every battle you will wear yourself out and not produce a positive result. Be direct with others, and don't avoid facing situations that are important, but don't expect to deal with everything that comes up.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Thursday April 7th at 7:24 A.M. EDT at 18 degrees Aries 04 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.

For information regarding personal readings please contact me at: mitchastro@aol.com.

Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected.

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction,

sextile, square, trine, and opposition. All times are Eastern Standard Time:

Please note: In response to requests from a few readers I have added a few VOC Moons into the next lunar cycle for those who need to make plans before my next newsletter is released.

March 8th 8:54 P.M. – March 9th 2:40 P.M. ***Moon is void 17 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

March 15th 1:03 P.M. – 8:57 P.M.

March 18th 12:09 A.M. – 3:54 A.M.

March 19th 4:43 P.M. – March 20th 1:39 P.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

March 21st 11:54 P.M. – March 23rd 1:23 A.M. ***Moon is void 1 _ days

March 24th 4:55 P.M. – March 25th 2:09 PM. ***Moon is void 24 hours

March 27th 3:25 A.M. – March 28th 2:46 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

March 29th 9:55 P.M. – March 30th 1:45 P.M. ***Moon is void 15 hours

April 1st 12:39 P.M. – 9:37 P.M.

April 3rd 7:16 P.M. – April 4th 1:46 A.M.

April 5th 6:33 A.M. – April 6th 2:46 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

April 7th 10:56 A.M. – April 8th 2:10 A.M. ***Moon is void 20 hours

April 9th 5:49 A.M. – April 10th 1:59 A.M. ***Moon is void 20 hours

April 11th 2:57 P.M. – April 12th 4:07 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

March 2016

New York City

(212) 726-3814

Copyright 2016

All Rights Reserved

