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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

We seem to be losing a lot of our rock heroes lately. This is terribly disturbing to us all.

Not many of my readers are aware that I have had a long career in the music business. I made my living playing some of the top piano bars in the New York area and the Hamptons for decades. I ran a rock 'n' roll band for twenty years, composed more than 400 compositions, some of which were recorded by other artists. I was able to chart a single as singer-songwriter from my self-titled album in 1990. So I have a deep appreciation and connection to many of those we are saying goodbye to. I am proud to have had a close association with some of the best musicians my generation produced. Watching the demise of the once powerful and incredibly wonderful and creative record industry has been devastating to me over the past years. An entire generation of kids has grown up believing that they should not have to pay for music. It should be given out for free. How sad.

It wasn't just the stars who have recently left us that have left a terrible hole in my heart, but a way of life and a thriving business that grew for more than a century. In the early 20th century a songwriter had little chance of making much money, unless he was already famous or in partnership with that rarity, an honest publisher. If you wrote a song someone like Al Jolson may like it and in exchange for fifty dollars and a box of cigars, put his name down as one of the writers and make a fortune performing and recording your song. All you ever got was the fifty. Then in 1914 the composer Victor Herbert, the publisher George Maxwell, and others including Irving Berlin created ASCAP, an organization to protect the creativity and rights of song writers. It was the beginning of the era of radio and records, and for the first time song writers got their due. Some have become very wealthy from their compositions. That has changed radically with the advent of streaming, which pays almost nothing to the writer and artist. I can only hope that this changes in some way in the coming years.

The world lost an amazingly talented soul when we lost Prince. There have been a number of astrological interpretations of his chart and his untimely demise at age 57 on the internet, but I've received a number of requests to address this.

I didn't have the privilege of ever meeting Prince, although I did know several of our recent departed heroes. In those days if you were active with a band you might meet almost anyone. Someday I'll relate the stories.

You can bring up Prince's chart on the internet. Here is a brief interpretation:

You cannot see success, or if genius in a natal chart will be used properly. You can only see the potential. What the person does with it is free will. But Prince certainly had what it takes to be what he was.

Neptune is conjunct his north node. This person was put here to engage in all Neptunian issues. That planet rules many things, including music. But someone born with that aspect could also have been in movies, painting, photography, medicine, or a seeker of spiritual answers. In many ways Prince was all of those. He made movies, was a musician, and spoke very much to the spiritual side of our society.

Because of his Scorpio ascendant he exuded a great sexual energy. He was a Gemini with Mercury in that mutable sign as well, so that gave him the duality we witness when we watch him. His androgyny was obvious and he seemed quite confident with it. He did much towards helping our culture become more accepting to different definitions of self and sexuality. In some ways Prince did at least as much good for transgender people as he did for the arts. At times a soul will come to us for reasons we cannot recognize. Although we didn't realize it at the time, George Harrison became a Beatle in part so he could help melt eastern and western philosophies together and teach us all the art of meditation. Prince did the same thing for our sexual identity and for understanding and acceptance where it is so sorely needed.

Saturn was in opposition to his Sun, an aspect often found in successful people. No matter what else was going on, he had one foot solidly in his reality. He wasn't frivolous in most things, which his incredible output attests to. They say that he has more than thirty albums worth of material finished and waiting for release. When Saturn is so prominent we expect longevity and stability. His work will be a factor in our society for many years to come.

His Moon is in Pisces, strengthening that Neptune north node conjunct. The Moon rules the public, and Neptune can create much confusion. He was very difficult to figure out. There was a square between the Moon and his Gemini Mercury showing the power of his words and presentation. But it also showed a lack of some common sense. After all, he didn't seem to have left a will or taken care of things as the Sun Saturn opposition would imply. So while he took great pains to guarantee the perfection of his work, he paid little attention to his belongings, including ultimately his legacy.

Venus was near the south node in opposition to his Neptune. He brought his talent in from a past life and seemed destined to complete something he may have begun in another lifetime. Venus also squared Uranus, and his art was certainly unusual for the times. He was constantly changing his image, his music, and his direction. And he broke down many walls that had stood for a long time. He was a rebel in every way, as much as James Dean, Elvis, or the Beatles. Pluto is conjunct his M.C. and he was controlling and demanding in his career. When he couldn't take Warner Brothers interfering with his recordings he left the record company and changed his name to an unpronounceable image. That was a very plutonian way of expressing power.

Saturn rests in the 2nd house of money, and despite what you may read in some astrology books, that often denotes great wealth and financial longevity and stability. But it may also manifest as a strong desire to escape the boundaries of money, which may have led to his irresponsibility at the end of his life.

Mars is at zero degrees Aries, a powerful placement. It sextiles Mercury, showing a powerful voice, but is inconjunct Neptune and the north node. There was some confusion about his masculinity from the outside world, but not from within.

When he died transiting Saturn was in opposition to his Sun. It put pressure on his heart and circulatory system and contributed to his death.

Uranus was in opposition to his Jupiter, an indicator of a sudden event. It's possible his liver could no longer filter out the poisons and failed. This combination was sufficient to exploit the issues in the natal chart.

Pluto was inconjunct his Sun adding more pressure to the heart.

So, Prince, may you rest in peace. You deserve it. You gave us great art and you were a wonderful role model.

This month we will see the completion of **Jupiter square Saturn**. This square has had a limiting effect on our society preventing the stock markets from heading in either direction. They are stuck in a tight trading range, which one would expect from this aspect. With the passing of this limiting aspect we may see some motion in

a number of areas that have become stifled.

Jupiter will come out of retrograde this month as well. This often represents a reversal in the equities; however, with the markets moving sideways it may be difficult to see which way they will go. This will certainly be a time to buy some stocks that have taken a beating of late. I do not promote individual stocks in this newsletter for many reasons. But I look at the motion of the financial markets in general and try to express the direction I believe they will head. We are still in a tight trading range and the stock markets aren't going anywhere exciting. They will continue to move sideways for some time.

We are still dealing with the Saturn – Neptune square that has created confusion and fear and is exposing much of the underbelly of our financial markets around the world. China's bubble has popped, as I predicted it would. The fallout from that has only begun to infiltrate our markets. We will continue to feel the effects for a long time. Also, with the coming presidential election looming in the background, there is little chance for any resolution until we decide who will sit in the White House. Once that decision is made there will be movement in the equities. How much and which way they will go has a lot to do with who wins. But no matter what, we are still a long way from any big boom in the stock markets. So use caution and look towards the long run, unless you are day trading.

Most of you know my prediction for that outcome. I've been saying that Hillary will win for the past year. Nothing has changed my mind, although there is always the chance for some unknown factor, such as a third party independent running. Still, all pointers aim towards Clinton being our first female commander in chief.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Friday May 6th at 3:29 P.M. EDT at 16 degrees Taurus 41 minutes. Taurus rules the 2nd house and has much to do with finances and values. This New Moon will ask all of us the questions: *What's most important to you? What do you value the most?* How we answer will decide much of the next 6 months until we reach the opposite New Moon in Scorpio.

With the financial markets still in the doldrums this Taurus New Moon could have a powerful influence. With Jupiter reversing direction this month there may be movement in this rather lethargic market. I still don't think we're anywhere near a new bull market, but the change of direction of Jupiter is often an indicator of a more active time for the equities. If oil has bottomed, we could see a resurgence in the energy future's price. But we won't see another bull market in the stocks or commodities for some time. The Saturn – Neptune square has created an atmosphere of confusion and fear that is preventing any real growth.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Saturday May 7th at 9:00 A.M. EDT this positive trine will complete. This energy helps with all issues involving group activities and jointly held possessions. The trine offers an opportunity to move the energy of the two planets in a positive and useful direction. Pluto rules the 8th house of jointly held resources. Anything that you've been trying to move forward that requires the help of others will do well today. With Jupiter going direct in a few days there will be a number of issues that should be pushed into the next level. Look through your life and see which ones have the greatest chance of success and aim your attention there. If you are prepared, the reversal of Jupiter's energy will allow you new growth and opportunities.

JUPITER GOES DIRECT:

On Monday May 9th at 8:16 A.M. EDT the biggest planet in our solar system begins its direct motion. This is an important moment in many areas of our lives. First of all, Jupiter is the planet of growth and expansion.

While in retrograde much of that expansion took place internally. Many of us sought ways of enlarging our perspective and attitudes, much of which may not have been obvious to the outside world. But now that this planet is beginning its forward motion we will see that growth begin to take place in the material world. Projects and plans that have been delayed or didn't seem to be moving will start to do so now. You must be prepared as there could be a sudden influx of ideas and opportunities that need your attention right away. As with all issues involving Jupiter it's important not to take on more than you can handle. You must decide which things are most important and concentrate on those. This is often a reversal in the stock markets. While they have been going sideways for a long time, as I predicted, they are near the top of the trading range, which may mean that they are due for another downward turn. But I'm watching oil very closely, as it hits a temporary bottom and could bring the stocks back up again if the price of crude rises more than a few dollars.

VENUS SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

Also on Monday May 9th at 8:41 A.M. EDT this creative transit completes. This is a good aspect for all artists and entertainers. There is a positive connection between the lower and higher octaves of the same energy. Venus rules personal affections, while Neptune rules universal love and the more spiritual side of feelings. This is a good day to delve into any creative project, or just to enjoy something artistic. You will be more open to it and may get more out of the experience.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

Also on Monday May 9th at 11:12 A.M. EDT there will be willfulness about most communications. People will tend not to bend that easily or change their minds. If there's something that requires compromise you may be better off leaving it until this aspect gets out of orb. Otherwise you could find yourself in an ego battle where one isn't necessary. Communication will be plentiful and direct, and if you have something to say this may be the day to say it. Just be prepared to hear what the other person has to say as well.

VENUS TRINES JUPITER:

On Tuesday May 10th at 3:00 P.M. EDT this wonderfully positive and social aspect completes. This is a very pleasant and easy-going transit. But it isn't usually all that energetic. Most people feel like lounging around and enjoying the pleasures of life. There's nothing wrong with that, and it would be a good day to walk in the park, meet for a leisure lunch, or take in some form of entertainment. But don't plan too strenuous a work schedule. You may not be able to concentrate or focus on those issues and you could resent any limitations placed on you.

MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:

On Thursday May 12th at 10:51 P.M. EDT we will all be looking to get to the bottom of things. This is a positive trine, so it will be possible to work with the energy and accomplish much. Important conversations and business meetings will delve deeply into any subject. There is a strong desire to find the truth in all issues. But it won't be too difficult or upsetting to do so. As long as you keep your eyes open and are willing to accept what is offered this will be a very positive transit.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Friday May 13th at 3:11 P.M. EDT this pleasant transit completes. Today we will all enjoy our conversations and interactions. This is a sociable aspect and has much to do with our interactions. There will be little interest in arguing or creating conflict. It doesn't mean that there won't be some rough spots, especially for those of us going through more difficult transits in our own charts, but for the most part you should find people more flexible and less angry. This is a good transit for any creative projects. If you've been stuck on something it may break through now. This is a quick moving aspect and only lasts through the day.

VENUS TRINES PLUTO:

Also on Friday May 13th at 10:18 P.M. EDT we will all take a more serious and deeper view of our personal relationships. Because this is a positive trine it will be easier to use this force to our advantage. But still, there is a depth of perception that Pluto creates that cannot be denied. Nothing superficial will suffice, and you shouldn't get into a conversation unless you're ready to hear the truth about things. This is a good transit for working with others towards a common goal. Any projects that require commonality and a composite push should be pursued with gusto.

THE SUN ENTERS GEMINI:

On Friday May 20th at 10:37 A.M. EDT we enter the mutable part of spring when the weather starts to change into a more summer-like atmosphere. Geminis are known for their duality, and that is a very real interpretation. Most people born under that sign will occasionally display two distinctive personalities. Each year as the Sun travels through this mutable air sign we all will share a bit of that two-sidedness this sign is known for. It's important to complete things we've begun. Geminis can easily become bored and leave projects unfinished. If that's part of your personality then you are used to it. But if you're reacting to the energy around you, you may not be happy with the results.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday May 21st at 5:14 P.M. EDT at 1 degree Sagittarius 14 minutes. Sagittarius tends to blow things out of proportion and since most Full Moons can do the same, it's possible that some of us could become involved in situations that lack control or boundaries. This is an optimistic and outgoing energy, and as with any aspect hitting in the first two degrees of a sign it will have a lot of power. Use it wisely and don't overdo things. If you keep a good perspective this can be an exciting and enthusiastic few days. This is followed closely by the Sun opposite Mars (see below), which is a very high energy transit. So some caution is certainly called for. Egos and tempers may be very much in play, so try to avoid any unnecessary arguments. And pay attention to how much you promise to others. You may not be able to fulfill your obligations if you take on too many.

THE SUN OPPOSES MARS:

On Sunday May 22nd at 7:17 A.M. EDT this high energy aspect requires awareness and self-control. This can be a fight, accident, or minor illness waiting to happen. Oppositions always work through other people, so you must use caution for a day or so. This comes on the heels of the Sag Full Moon and right before

Mercury goes direct. I suggest keeping a lid on things that aren't worth the effort and only pursuing those that are. You need to use some discretion and not take on every little issue that arises. This is an angry transit and projects a great deal of force. If it's not aimed somewhere useful it can cause all sorts of problems. If this sets off your chart you need to pay close attention to what's happening around you. This could easily result in a fight or accident. But if you're aware and find positive ways to project this it can be a very useful and fulfilling day. Try to sidestep any disagreements that don't seem to have a solution.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

Also on Sunday May 22nd at 9:20 A.M. EDT Mercury finally goes direct. Because this recent retrograde was in the sign of Taurus and we have a New Moon in that fixed earth sign many issues of money and values were brought to our consciousness. As this planet begins its direct motion you must use some care. We are all apt to try and make up for lost time, which can easily result in mistakes and confusion. For at least a day or so pay close attention to what you're doing. If you've been waiting for something, it should come along soon. If you've been avoiding dealing with an issue that too may come to a head, so be prepared.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Tuesday May 24th at 5:45 A.M. EDT until June 17th the planet of love and money enters this dual sign. Romance will be more about communication for the next few weeks. Conversations will unveil hidden feelings and it will be easier to negotiate your most intimate relationships, but there is little room for deep feelings and more of a need to rationalize things. As such the usual means of relating may not work so well. Once Venus enters Cancer it will be more of a feeling thing, but for now you should be talking your way into relationships. Save the tears and sad stories for next month.

VENUS OPPOSES MARS:

Also on Tuesday May 24th at 10:38 P.M. EDT Venus and Mars are at odds. This is a difficult aspect for relationships between the sexes. But it does stimulate the desire for sexual contact. Relationships are complicated things. There is no logic to why some work out and others don't, except that attraction is the force behind them. While the male and female planets are in opposition now and it may be difficult to find compromise, there will be a strong wish to interact. But there will be attraction. How you handle it will decide just what the results are. Some self-control would be advised, but how many of us listen to advice? This can also be a very creative energy and if you use it properly you may be able to get some exciting work done, especially in the arts.

JUPITER SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday May 26th at 8:28 A.M. EDT this powerful square completes for the last time. We experienced this on March 23rd 2016. These two planets are antithetical. Where Jupiter wants uninhibited expansion and growth, Saturn demands a slow and steady approach to things. When used complementarily the combination can create a great balance between the two concepts. But it can be quite difficult to do so, as each planet tries to outdo the other. This is often a moment of crises in the world, either in the financial markets or in political and social issues. How this will affect the presidential election is a good question. Will Bernie Sanders finally pull out of the race and back Hillary? Or will he dig his heel in as he has implied, and create a rift in the Democratic Party, which may have a seriously negative reaction on the results? If there is a

meeting of the minds, this square could actually result in a positive affect for Clinton. If not, it will be to Trump's advantage. Financially this may represent a bottom in certain markets. Oil keeps trying to rise up to the next trading level. The stocks continue to be stuck in the doldrums of a sideways market. Gold is also stuck in a trading range, as are most of the commodities. The conflicting energy of these two planets has had much to do with this. Once this square completes we may see motion in many of those markets.

MARS ENTERS SCORPIO:

On May 27th at 9:51 A.M. EDT Mars retrogrades back into the sign of its ancient rulership where it will remain until August 2nd. I still give it domain in Scorpio alongside Pluto. This placement can create some intense and deep feelings. People are less apt to compromise or find common ground. The ego is quite prominent and relationships will have black-or-white feelings, making it hard to bend. But once an agreement has been reached there is a tendency to remain true to the arrangement and follow through. The intensity of emotions this placement can bring up makes it important to be aware of what you're getting into. It will be difficult to extricate yourself from situations, so be careful what you promise. The other person will not tend to be flippant or to take things lightly. Also, Scorpio has a long memory and the results of what you decide now will be around for some time, so be sure about what you commit to.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Wednesday June 1st at 10:43 P.M. EDT this difficult and confusing aspect will complete. Misdirection is common and the truth may be less than forthcoming. Make sure you understand what others are saying, and that you present your point of view as honestly and directly as possible to avoid any miscommunication. This is not a good day for important conversations or for a first date. You may not be able to clarify things and pertinent information might not be readily available. This is usually a very bad day for the financial markets.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Friday June 3rd at 12:15 A.M. EDT this square follows the Sun square Neptune we experienced on June 1st. The Sun and Venus are conjunct at the moments, so they will both aspect the planets they encounter within a few days. This square makes relationships difficult. It's hard to get a clear idea of what the other person is doing, and misunderstandings abound. Within an ongoing connection you should take things in stride and not jump to conclusions. If you don't understand something, wait a day or two and then revisit the discussion. Venus rules money, and this along with the square to the Sun may represent a precarious drop in the markets. Use caution if you're trading, or if possible just sit it out until this completes. Even if you're on the right side of a trade the confusion this can create could result in a problem. I remember a time during my years on the Mercantile Exchange when I meant to sell the bonds, but accidentally bought them instead. As it turned out, they went up and I made a great trade, receiving accolades from my peers. It could just as easily have gone the other way, and I would have lost a lot. I was too embarrassed to tell them that I had simply said "Buy" instead of "Sell". Hey, they called me a genius, (I graciously took the compliment) and we all went out to dinner. Of course, I had to pick up the check.

THE SUN OPPOSES SATURN:

Also on Friday June 3rd at 2:38 A.M. EDT this rather dour and limiting opposition also completes. This,

along with the two Neptune aspects mentioned above, show a strong indicator of a drop in the markets. Venus, ruler of money also opposes Saturn today (see below), another indicator of a bad few days for the equities. This would be a good time to stay on the sidelines, or, if possible, short the stocks. But because of the added confusion this is a risky few days to be dipping in the waters. Personally this is a tough day to deal with people. This is a low energy aspect and many of us will be feeling down. Because this completes so early in the morning its effects will be more pronounced the night before. But the handover of this aspect will set the mood for Friday, so don't plan too strenuous a schedule or you may not have the energy to complete things. Venus will also oppose Saturn (see below), so this isn't a great day for personal relationships, business, or any other interactions. Get your work done, clean up unfinished business, and deal with reality as best you can.

VENUS OPPOSES SATURN:

Also on Friday June 3rd at 8:47 P.M. EDT this wet-blanket comes along. This aspect can create feelings of loneliness and isolation. Many people will find it difficult to express their feelings or even to view interpersonal relationships with a clear eye. Under heavy Saturn aspects there is a tendency to see things through a limited and unenthusiastic eye. We often only see the negative, so don't make any permanent decisions if possible. Wait until this passes and then look the situation over once again. You may find that things aren't nearly as bad as they seemed. Venus rules money, and this opposition will have a negative effect on the stocks. We could hear some bad news about the economy, or there may just be a pullback. Remember, the financial markets run more on psychology and emotions than logic.

THE SUN & VENUS SQUARE JUPITER:

On Saturday June 4th at 6:57 A.M. & 8:49 P.M. EDT these squares to Jupiter complete. Today's energy will be quite different than yesterday's when the Sun and Venus were in square to Saturn. This will be a more optimistic and encouraging energy. There is a tendency to overdo things, and you should keep an eye on consumption, spending, and other indulgences. Also, try not to make promises that will be hard to keep. You might feel as though you have the strength to take on a lot, but once these squares pass you could feel a serious drop in that energy level and not be able to follow through.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Saturday June 4th at 10:59 P.M. EDT at 14 degrees Gemini 53 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 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.

May 6th 10:10 P.M. – May 7th 12:34 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

May 9th 12:15 A.M. – 1:24 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

May 11th 3:34 A.M. – 5:32 P.M. ***Moon is void 15 hours

May 13th 1:02 P.M. – May 14th 1:52 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

May 16th 5:20 A.M. – 1:33 P.M.

May 18th 11:23 A.M. – May 19th 2:30 A.M.

May 21st 7:40 A.M. – 2:48 P.M.

May 23rd 11:37 A.M. – May 24th 1:34 AM.

May 25th 9:11 P.M. – May 26th 10:27 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

May 28th 4:19 P.M. – 5:06 P.M.

May 30th 7:10 P.M. – 9:09 P.M.

June 1st 11:42 A.M. – 10:46 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

June 3rd 7:02 P.M. – 11:01 P.M.

June 5th 12:47 P.M. – 11:41 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

June 7th 8:18 P.M. – June 8th 2:47 A.M.

June 10th 3:14 A.M. – 9:46 A.M.

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