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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

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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.

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

We are in an eclipse period with a solar eclipse September 1st and a lunar eclipse September 16th. Eclipses literally block out the light and amplify what is in the shadows that we usually do not see. That's exactly what we can expect this month. Many issues that have been peripheral will come into the forefront and a lot of hidden agendas and unspoken ideas will be heard. Exactly how that will manifest remains to be seen. This will be an interesting month with a lot of planetary action that may have a powerful effect on our society. Because of this ongoing presidential race all eyes are on the two combatants and their followers. The effects of these eclipses will be intense and as we head towards the inevitable date with destiny on November 8th the conscience of the collective will be felt with all of its hopes, dreams and rage.

Our nation is at a crossroads and the path that we take will have profound and long lasting effects. If we are short-sighted and fail to understand what is truly at stake we will lose our moral compass and head off into an abyss that we will not climb out of for a generation. No matter what you may think of the individuals running this year (and let's face it, most Americans don't have a high opinion of either) it is the underlying philosophy and the direction humanity will take that is the real issue. Mistakes are often made, and can then be reversed through time and the political process. But rarely have we been in a situation such as now when, because of the Supreme Court the decisions made will be irreversible for 20 years or more.

The most important aspect we will experience this month is the completion of the Saturn-Neptune square that we have been dealing with for the past 18 months. As I've written below, the Sun will square Saturn and opposes Neptune right after the New Moon eclipse and set up the atmosphere for this lunar cycle. This Saturn-Neptune square has been causing all sorts of problems in our society, not the least of which is this presidential election that seems to be frustrating almost everyone, with the possible exception of those who make their money from TV ads. No matter what the outcome at least half of this country will be dissatisfied.

On Saturday September 10th at 9:10 A.M. EDT this **horrible** aspect finally comes to an end. I don't usually judge an astrology transit, as I have seen that each has its purpose in helping us learn and grow. But there are a few that should be called what they are. And this is one. Saturn rules all things regarding

structure, stability, and reality. Neptune couldn't care less about those issues. It's the "spiritual" planet and it, and it ruling sign Pisces, do not seem to exist in the same universe as the rest of the energies. When these two are in conflict there is both a limitation (Saturn) of all spiritual issues and dissolving (Neptune) of the foundation we usually rely on. Just look at this presidential election. Could there possibly be a more confusing, irritating and unsatisfactory situation? No matter who wins half this country will be unhappy with the results. For the past 18 months as this aspect was in orb there has been an underlying anger and frustration at our inability to find common ground, strong leadership or any other stabilizing force to counter-act what has felt like the dissolving reality of our society. Many have felt like we were standing on quicksand. Brexit took place under this energy, the refugee crisis in Syria grew worse by the minute, there were biblical floods, wildfires, and earthquakes (talk about standing on quicksand). And now we are approaching the presidential election. Well, now that this square has **finally** completed I hope and believe that we can regain our footing and find a more secure foundation.

There have been some underlying changes in our culture because of this square. Some issues were brought into the light that had long been hidden in the unconscious. But because of the confusing and irrational nature of this aspect it's been very difficult to get a handle on what to do about them. Now that it is completing we will begin to recover some semblance of order and focus. It will take some time before the Neptunian fog lifts, and I don't believe we are going to suddenly all gain some magical awareness, but as the weeks pass and we head into the final phase of this election the truth about some things will become clearer. Still, as I said above about half of this country will continue to be dissatisfied with the results. Awareness doesn't necessarily mean peace, acceptance or forgiveness. It only implies that the truth will have an opportunity to be presented. It's up to the individual to accept it or continue to turn away.

Jupiter enters Libra September 9th. Jupiter takes one year to travel through each sign. As it leaves one and enters the next the collective perspective is changed. Jupiter has much to do with our desire and ability to expand our point of view and to take in new information. Anything involved in higher education is affected. Also our attitude and approach to all things foreign is about to alter, which will have much to do with how we look at other nations. Libra is the sign of partnerships, so my hope is that this will help, not hinder our relationships with our national partners, including Mexico and NATO. Because the outcome of this election will have a tremendous effect on those relationships this change of signs may have a stronger influence than we would normally expect.

Our attention both collectively and individually will now be redirected towards partnerships and away from an obsession with details that Virgo is known for. While Jupiter was in Virgo there was an enormous amount of nit-picking into the little things and an avoidance of facing the bigger picture. Now that should reverse somewhat as we can all stand back and see just what's happening to our world. This will be effective in many areas of our lives and society. It certainly will have an influence on the election, as I said, but it will also be a year when many people will decide not to go it alone, but will look for a partner and take the plunge. Jupiter in Libra holds great possibilities and hope for a more balanced world. Let's pray that we can achieve that potential.

I believe the result of the aspects mentioned above will fare better for Hillary. We should see her poll numbers go up once again as the divisive rhetoric of Donald Trump is the antithesis of what Jupiter in Libra implies. Libra wants good relationships, and Jupiter needs growth in that department. Trump wants exactly the opposite, and the fact that the Saturn-Neptune square is finally completing a semblance of common sense will return to the collective as that aspect wanes over the coming weeks. People will see the potential results of each candidate's platform and vote accordingly.

Mercury will go direct on September 22nd. While it is in retrograde motion you must pay close attention to what is said. Surprises and secrets will be revealed, and we will see many things reverse direction. But don't make any conclusions until the retrograde is over. Once Mercury goes direct things may turn around yet again. As it begins its direct motion caution is called for until we get used to the reversal of energy. The few days following Mercury's turnaround are often complicated and distracting as we try to catch up with our lives. This should be a doozy of a retrograde traveling through Virgo, one of the 2 signs we give Mercury rulership over. Whatever occurs during this Rx period is temporary. The truth will be exposed after September 22nd. Who knows what will be revealed from the eclipses when it goes direct.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday September 1st at 5:03 A.M. EDT at 9 degrees Virgo 21 minutes, and it's an eclipse. Virgo is a Mercury-ruled, very detail oriented sign that pays close scrutiny to the little things, but at times can only see the trees and not the forest. This is a time to analyze and put your situations in order. It's a good time to clean your desk, house, or closet. Our society closely follows astrology whether we realize it or not. School begins while the Sun is in Virgo and our minds are more easily focused on intellectual ideas and programs. It wouldn't do to begin classes while we are in Leo and our attention is scattered and aimed at games, romance and other distractions. So our culture has evolved in such a way that most of our collective decisions are made under appropriate astrological energies. *As I like to remind my readers every year, while Christmas, which is actually a religious holiday, falls in the sign of Capricorn known for its attachment to the family and the past, the shopping season is the month before as the Sun travels through expansive Sagittarius known for its dislike of limitations and restrictions. And let's face it, with our retailers making most of their yearly money in this short period of time, what better sign for a shopping spree than Jupiter ruled Sag?*

This month is all about organizing and setting up situations that we can work with in that small and controlled fashion that Virgos like so much. Communication of all sorts will be forefront in our minds, whether you're in school, a job or just keeping your life together. Look at the pieces that make up the whole and try to deal with each separately. Then once they are in order you can put the bigger picture together and you will see how each section fits properly. It's like learning to play Chopin. First you must practice each measure of music – left hand, then right hand, and finally you can play them together. You can't just sit down and whip through it, unless you're a protégé. In fact, they say that when Chopin was composing his pieces were so complicated that the only pianist who could successfully play his works was Franz Liszt,

supposedly the greatest pianist who ever lived. (Otis Spann was a close second.) He took Chopin's amazing compositions and fingered them so that other pianists could play them. Just don't get so caught up in the details this month that you ignore the larger issues; like focusing on a few emails when the fate of the world hangs in the balance.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

Also on Thursday September 1st at 11:22 P.M. EDT this difficult transit completes. When an aspect closely follows a New Moon it sets up the energy for that lunar cycle. This and the opposition to Neptune mentioned below will do just that. The few days leading up to this aspect will feel limiting and a bit repressive to many of us. This is not a happy-go-lucky transit, and at times can be quite dour. But it has an important purpose forcing us to view our lives and projects with an honest and reality-oriented perspective. It's a low energy period and you should put most of your efforts into work and obligations. This is not a good few days for parties, first dates or other social activities. It's often a bad day or two for the stock markets, and I wouldn't be surprised by a sell-off. If this square sets off your chart you may feel tired and rundown. Conserve your energy and get the most important things done first. Because of the applying Saturn-Neptune square that is completing this month this will be followed closely by the Sun opposite Neptune mentioned below, another low energy day. So don't overwhelm yourself with too many promises and obligations. You may not have the strength to complete them all. When an inner planet aspects such a powerful outer planet transit, as the Sun is doing now, it amplifies the effects of that outer planet aspect and brings it more into our personal lives. So while the collective is dealing with that square, we as individuals will also be forced to experience it on a more personal level.

THE SUN OPPOSES NEPTUNE:

On Friday September 2nd at 12:38 P.M. EDT the second half of this pair of transits completes. This is another day of low energy and some confusion. You may not feel like doing much, especially if this sets off your individual chart. Don't push things too hard. You will be wasting your time and energy. This is a good day for spiritual matters, mediation, or other internal issues. It's not a good time for many business decisions or to plan a lot of physical activity. There just won't be that much oomph in the air. This is also usually a bad day for the stocks, so if there was a sell-off yesterday it may continue early today. But there could be a turnaround in the afternoon. Many people will be disorganized or distracted and find it difficult to focus their attention. The best way to handle this is just to wait it out. If you're tired, rest. If you're confused, wait until clarity comes. If you've planned a trip or other activity you should have patience and take things in stride. There may be problems with traffic, technology or other societal issues. But if you go into it with awareness and don't have too strict preconceived ideas you may do just fine and find that the journey is an unusual adventure you hadn't counted on. This is followed closely by Mercury conjunct Jupiter mentioned below, so there will be an underlying feeling of optimism and enthusiasm that may lighten the burden of this opposition.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

Also on Friday September 2nd at 1:18 P.M. EDT this optimistic and enthusiastic aspect will complete.

Because this coincides with the Sun opposite Neptune mentioned above it won't have the usual positive and assertive energy that often accompanies this conjunct. But while its powers will be lessened it will still give us all an underlying sense of hope and passion. This is usually a very good transit for communication of all sorts. But because of that Sun-Neptune energy you must make sure that you are understood and that you understand others. Miscommunication is certainly possible, and with Jupiter's tendency to blow things out of proportion it will be easy to misrepresent yourself without realizing it only to find that something has become much more of an issue than it need be. Travel is good as long as you are paying close attention and don't lock yourself into an untenable schedule. Delays and mistakes are certainly possible, so give yourself plenty of time and just enjoy the ride.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Wednesday September 7th at 1:17 A.M. EDT this positive trine will allow us all to work well in groups. This is an opportunity to join forces towards a common goal, and if you aim your energy in that direction you will be surprised at how much you can accomplish. Make use of other people's talents and enthusiasm. Pluto wants to uncover the truth, and even in a trine it will demand a certain amount of honesty and might make you delve more deeply into any situation that is unclear or incomplete. There is intensity with this planet no matter whether the transit is difficult or easy. But with the trine (and sextile) it's more malleable and easier to use. But don't be shocked if some secrets come out, or if somebody lets their true feeling come to the surface. While not everything revealed under this aspect will be pleasant it will all be useful and necessary.

VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Wednesday August 7th at 7:34 A.M. EDT this realistic transit will make us all more honest about our relationships and finances. This will work in tandem with the Sun trine Pluto mentioned above, and the few days leading up to these transits will present us all with a chance to make some changes in how we approach these issues. This is a good aspect for creating a realistic budget, balancing our checkbooks, or figuring out how we can use our resources more productively. In relationships there will be an honest and direct evaluation, but not in a harsh or threatening way. This is the difference between the soft and hard aspects. If this were a conjunct, opposition or square it would be more difficult to find a positive release for this. But in a sextile we can work with it and find solutions that benefit all involved.

JUPITER ENTERS LIBRA:

On Friday September 9th at 7:18 A.M. EDT our favorite benefic enters the sign that rules relationships. This doesn't mean that we will all find our soul mates and live happily ever after, although that would be nice. But while Jupiter is in this sign for the next 12 months it will offer some chances to meet someone either in a romantic or business sense that will allow you to work together towards an expansive and growth-oriented goal. Every time this planet changes signs it alters our personal and collective attitude regarding the future. While it was in Virgo there were some limits on how far we could see down the line. Virgo is very much concerned with details and Jupiter's travels through that mutable earth sign did put some limitations on our goals and intentions as we dealt with the immediacy and details of the here and

now. However, now that Jupiter is entering the cardinal air sign we will all be more far-sighted and looking towards our long-term objectives with a different perspective. This is actually a very good placement for Jupiter. The sign is partner oriented and the planet is all about aiming for a higher plane. The combination will give us a chance to enrich our lives both through other people and through our own personal goals and achievements. All other things being equal this will be a better year for many of us than last year was because our ability to think bigger thoughts and attempt to expand things will have more support from those around us.

SATURN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Saturday September 10th at 9:10 A.M. EDT this **horrible** aspect finally comes to an end. I don't usually judge an astrology transit, as I have seen that each has its purpose in helping us learn and grow. But there are a few that should be called what they are. And this is one. Saturn rules all things regarding structure, stability, and reality. Neptune couldn't care less about those issues. It's the "spiritual" planet and it, and its ruling sign Pisces, do not seem to exist in the same universe as the rest of the energies. When these two are in conflict there is both a limitation (Saturn) of all spiritual issues and dissolving (Neptune) of the foundation we usually rely on. Just look at this presidential election. Could there possibly be a more confusing, irritating and unsatisfactory resolution? No matter who wins half this country will be unhappy with the results. For the past 18 months as this aspect was in orb there has been an underlying anger and frustration at our inability to find common ground, strong leadership or any other stabilizing force to counteract what has felt like the dissolving reality of our society. Many have felt like we were standing on quicksand. Brexit took place under this energy, the refugee crisis in Syria grew worse by the minute, there were biblical floods, wildfires, and earthquakes (talk about standing on quicksand). And now we are approaching the presidential election. Well, now that this square has **finally** completed I hope and believe that we can regain our footing and find a more secure foundation.

There have been some underlying changes in our culture because of this square. Some issues were brought into the light that had long been hidden in the unconscious. But because of the confusing and irrational nature of this aspect it's been very difficult to get a handle on what to do about them. Now that it is completing we will begin to recover some semblance of order and focus. It will take some time before the Neptunian fog lifts, and I don't believe we are going to suddenly all gain some magical awareness, but as the weeks pass and we head into the final phase of this election the truth about some things will become clearer. Still, as I said above about half of this country will continue to be dissatisfied with the results. Awareness doesn't necessarily mean peace, acceptance or forgiveness. It only implies that the truth will have an opportunity to be presented. It's up to the individual to accept it or continue to turn away.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Sunday September 11th at 3:45 A.M. EDT this square will demand that we all view our relationships in a more honest and delving fashion. It's much easier to just go about our business and enjoy those close to us, but there are times when it's necessary to examine any underlying issues and make alterations. This is one of those times. Because this aspect completes early in the morning its effects will be felt more intensely

the night before. So this weekend may not be a good time for a casual date. And any ongoing connections will probably be scrutinized with encounters that could be rather deep and passionate. There is a compulsive element to all Pluto aspects and it will be difficult to avoid the energy this will project. But as with all astrological transits if you deal with it directly and honestly you may be able to fix something that is causing difficulty with someone. Never be afraid of a transit. Face it and use it in the manner it implies. None of these aspects, even the harsh ones are there to hurt us, only to teach us.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Monday September 12th at 2:59 P.M. EDT this brusque and powerful energy will present itself. This is an argument waiting to happen. Many of us will feel its tension, especially if it hits a sensitive point in your chart. Don't take the bait in every situation. Some people will just be looking for a fight. There is no reason why you need be on the receiving end. If something is worth the battle, then you should confront it directly. But if you can avoid conflict until this passes it will be much easier to deal with the issues and work through them. However, if you simply can't sidestep something then you'd be better off taking a deep breath and putting your thoughts in order, and making them known. Sometimes a square such as this one will bring something up that has been buried for some time. And with this square closely following the Venus square Pluto mentioned above, this could be a few days of intense encounters and a clearing out of some underlying issues that need to be resolved, especially in our relationships. Use caution while traveling. This could easily manifest as an accident or road rage. Because this is a very angry and confrontational energy there could be a number of problems involving travel. Remember that Mercury is retrograde now and that will add another layer of confusion or misdirection. Awareness is all, and if you're paying attention you can avoid any problems that are within your power.

THE SUN CONJUNCT MERCURY:

Also on Monday September 12th at 7:40 P.M. EDT this frequent transit comes along. This is usually displayed as a willful and somewhat arrogant moment when everyone seems to want to say what's on their mind. Normally this is a good day for conversations or even for mild disagreements. People will be direct and say what they've been thinking giving us all a chance to respond in kind. But because this falls in between the Mercury square Mars mentioned above and the Sun square Mars below we all must use caution and restraint for these few days. There is a lot of Martian force being emitted, and Mars is after all the god of war. Don't let your temper get the best of you, and if possible, think before you speak. It will be very easy to get someone's goat or create a volatile situation. Own what you do and say, and try to put things in perspective. If you're angry about something you will have another chance to express it in a few days after this passes. But even with awareness it's very possible to overreact to a small slight or allow your stress to overwhelm you. Pay attention.

THE SUN SQUARES MARS:

On Tuesday September 13th at 4:39 P.M. EDT the last of these Mars transits will complete. In many ways this is one of the harshest of Martian aspects. The Sun represents the will, and Mars rules the ego. When those two forces are in conflict such as now there is often an inability to restrain our feelings and actions.

As a result this square can often result in angry or even violent actions. Don't scream at that stranger in Starbucks. You don't know what they are going through, or how angry or conflicted they may be. If you feel your ire rising to the surface it would be better to take a walk in the park or even bang your head against a wall than to confront someone. We live in erratic and dangerous times, and these days there is a great deal of buried animosity and frustration that may be released under this type of aspect. As often is the case, there is another way of seeing things. This can be viewed as a positive transit that will give us all an extra jolt of energy, and if you can direct it and project it where it will do some good you will be able to accomplish much in a short time. Remember, this is just energy. It's neither good nor evil. It's what we do with it that makes the difference.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday September 16th at 3:05 P.M. EDT at 24 degree Pisces 20 minutes and it's a lunar eclipse. Pisces is the last sign of the zodiac and has much to do with endings and cleaning up unfinished business. This is also true of lunar eclipses. The shadow created by this aspect demands that we delve into the darkness and bring things to light. But it's difficult because of the nature of the energy. But that is why this is considered an important moment. Both as individuals and as a collective we all must view our situations as clearly as possible and make the effort to decide what can be fixed and what is beyond repair. Anything that has outlived its usefulness must be discarded to make room for new growth-oriented ideas, projects and relationships. This is the Harvest Moon, which implies that it's time to remove what has grown to fruition and upend the soil in preparation for the next growing season. Because it is an eclipse as well that concept is even more powerful and prophetic, and in order to use this to your advantage you cannot be afraid to let go of anything that is no longer serving your needs. It may be hard to do so as we often get attached to the status quo and most people do not like change, but without a periodic cleansing there will be no new growth.

This energy will be felt at least until the next New Moon on September 30th, and an underlying sense of completion will continue for the next six months. So don't expect to just wash your hands of issues and be done with it. It may take some time before you see the results of your actions. That doesn't mean you aren't on the right path. Follow your instincts and move ahead with the clearing out process.

MARS TRINES URANUS:

On Saturday September 17th at 3:04 A.M. EDT this very positive trine will allow us an underlying sense of direction and help us make some of the changes I spoke of in the Full Moon paragraph above. This will be in effect for about two days leading up to this completion, and if you pay attention you should be able to find ways to direct your energy into productive and active avenues. This should also help us all smooth over any rough spots that are still lingering as a result of the difficult Mars aspects we experienced last week (see September 12-13 above). For the few days leading up to this you should be able to get much accomplished without the stressful attitude we felt back then. You can work with others towards a common goal without butting heads. There may be some tension in the air because these two planets create that

atmosphere even in a positive trine. But it will be fairly easy to contain and push the force where we need it.

VENUS OPPOSES URANUS:

On Sunday September 18th at 4:06 A.M. EDT this erratic aspect will make relationships difficult for a day or so leading up to this completion. The past weekend may have been rough on some personal connections, but we do have the Mars trine Uranus in effect as well, which will at least allow us to focus our aggressions in a more positive direction. This opposition makes it hard to relate to others without feeling restricted and limited. But the need for personal freedom that Uranus demands is one of the issues that must be discussed between you and your partners. Whether the relationship is romantic or professional it may still feel uncomfortable and you must be honest about whether you are getting what you need from it. This is a few days to explore anything out of the ordinary. Go do something that you normally might not be drawn to. This includes new people, projects, ideas or attitudes. You may find that you enjoy yourself and perhaps learn something new. Any social activity that explores a new or original concept should fare quite well. Because Venus is about to sextile Mars early tomorrow morning today would be a good day for any party, date or other social activity.

VENUS SEXTILES MARS:

On Monday September 19th at 7:53 A.M. EDT the male and female planets are in good accord. This sextile isn't strong enough to make a major change in your life, but men and women should get along better than they have for the past week or so. This can be a smoothing over and a chance to make amends if there is left over anger or frustration. This is a creative transit as well, and can aid in any artistic venture. It's also a good time for socializing, and coming on the heels of yesterday Venus opposite Uranus the combination will give us a chance to interact in an exciting, although somewhat erratic manner.

MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:

On Tuesday September 20th at 9:41 P.M. EDT we will all try to get to the bottom of things, but in an easy fashion. We can delve into any situation that requires our attention and find solutions that work well without upsetting the status quo too much. Superficial answers will not suffice now, but because this is a positive trine you should be able to accept what is said without taking offense. Still, you must be honest and direct. Don't be surprised if some secrets are revealed. Take them in stride and think them through before reacting. Mercury is going direct tomorrow and that also often reveals some hidden agendas and can put things in a new perspective.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Thursday September 22nd at 1:31 A.M. EDT our mischievous little friend finally turns around and we will all be glad that it has. This has probably been a rough retrograde with Mercury in Virgo, and a lot of hidden details have come to the surface. Now that it is reversing direction we all must try to catch up on our lives. Whenever Mercury changes direction there is a period of a few days when miscommunication, mistakes or even accidents are more common. Use caution for a while and double check everything. Any

issues that were instigated under the retrograde must be scrutinized for mistakes and reviewed to see if they are as valid as you thought. This is the reason why astrologers tell you not to sign important documents while Mercury is in retrograde. Things are overlooked and it's very easy to make mistakes. Of course the mistakes might be made by the other person in the situation, and it could work out to your advantage. But still it's better to look over the paperwork while this planet is going forward and then making your decisions.

THE SUN ENTERS LIBRA:

Also on Thursday September 22nd at 10:22 A.M. EDT we enter autumn. Libra is the cardinal air sign, and as I often tell my readers the beginning of each of the four cardinal signs starts each of the four seasons. Our society is much more astrologically oriented than we realize unless you are a student of the celestial arts. But to understand what the four cardinal signs imply, Aires, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn are the initiators that start each part of the year. There is directness in them all. Libra has a reputation of being somewhat passive, but that is a misnomer. It is a passive-aggressive sign that while it doesn't like confrontations it also doesn't shy away from conflict. It may sidestep a direct battle, but only to figure out the best way to achieve the desired solution.

Libra rules the 7th house of one-on-one relationships and for the next month many of us will find our attention aimed at working through our most personal connections. Marriage or other intimate relationships will be in the forefront of our lives. This will be true of romantic partnerships, but also of business and any direct relationships. The 7th house also rules your relationship with doctors, therapists, consultants and astrologers. So look over your most personal attachments and see if they are working to your advantage. If you aren't in a romantic relationship you may have the desire to pursue one now. This doesn't guarantee that you will find your spouse or business connection, but at least you will be open to the concept.

MERCURY TRINES PLUTO:

On Friday September 23rd at 4:36 A.M. EDT this trine comes along again. We just experienced this aspect on September 20th but because Mercury has turned around we are having it again now. The same holds true so I will repeat what I said a few days ago.

We will all try to get to the bottom of things, but in an easy fashion. We can delve into any situation that requires our attention and find solutions that work well without upsetting the status quo too much. Superficial answers will not suffice now, but because this is a positive trine you should be able to accept what is said without taking offense. Still, you must be honest and direct. Don't be surprised if some secrets are revealed. Take them in stride and think them through before reacting. This trine also often reveals some hidden agendas and can put things in a new perspective.

VENUS ENTERS SCORPIO:

Also on Friday September 23rd at 10:51 A.M. EDT Venus enters this Mars & Pluto-ruled sign in

opposition to Taurus, which Venus rules. So it is in its detriment here. It will remain in this sign until October 18 at 3:01 a.m. Venus doesn't feel all that comfortable in this sign, and the compulsive attitude that Scorpio brings can make this gentle planet feel out of place. There is a more aggressive feeling to romance, and obsessiveness is often the result. You need to be aware of any underlying tension when dealing with others. This will be especially true in romantic connections, but it can also affect all partnerships. Try not to be too demanding, and let go of things that aren't worth struggling over. . There is a tendency to avoid dealing directly with issues that require our attention, but that is a mistake. You'd be better off getting things out into the open where they can be scrutinized and discussed. Otherwise they might fester and become much more difficult to work through later on.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Monday September 26th at 2:59 A.M. EDT this very positive conjunction will bring an optimistic and outgoing attitude. This completes early in the morning so its effects will be felt for the day or so leading up to this time. There is a desire to expand things and look at the bigger picture. Anything that enlarges your perspective will be helpful. Travel is especially good, as seeing new horizons can often help us take off the blinders we usually have in place. Any educational endeavors will also be useful, and if there is something you've wanted to study this would be a good time to begin. This transit isn't very good with details, so be careful that you don't overlook something small but important. This is a very sociable energy, so perhaps a party or date Sunday night would be a positive way of using it.

PLUTO GOES DIRECT:

Also on Monday September 26th at 10:59 A.M. EDT our diminutive but powerful little friend begins its direct motion. People will become compulsive and it may be difficult to avoid confrontations for a few days. Anything that has been festering in the unconscious may force its way out of the muck and into our consciousness. There have been many things hidden for the past few months that will now show themselves. We will see some secrets revealed with surprising results. Pluto has a strong need to unveil what has been in the shadows, so there could be even more disclosures in our personal lives or on the world's stage. Though just what else could come out in this election season, lord knows. I suggest caution until this energy is better understood. It's common for mistakes to occur whenever any of the planets change direction, and with Pluto's deep feeling nature and obsessiveness it will be easy to overdo things. So pay attention and try to avoid unnecessary arguments and dangerous situations. Trouble often hides in the shadows, and there is no reason for you to go there. Stay in the light so you can decide what to confront and what to sidestep.

MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Tuesday September 27th at 4:08 A.M. EDT the god of war enters this Saturn ruled sign **until November 9th at 12:52 a.m. EST.** While Mars – Saturn combinations can be very frustrating and feel limiting, Mars is exalted in this sign. That surprises many astrology students because they expect a planet's energy to always act in its most projected manner. But this exaltation makes sense if you see it from the

proper perspective. The more focused and controlled our use of Martian energy is the more productive and successful it will be. As such it's placement in this sign may be a bit frustrating in a natal chart or by transit, but if used correctly it will prove advantageous and can lead to great success. Still, there will be periodic feelings of frustration and restriction while it travels through this cardinal earth sign. But if you take it in stride and have patience you can accomplish great things this month.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday September 30th at 8:11 P.M. EDT at 8 degrees Libra 15 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.

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

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

September 2nd 6:13 P.M. – 8:55 P.M.

September 4th 8:30 P.M. – September 5th 8:38 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

September 7th 8:43 P.M. – 9:20 P.M.

September 9th 8:51 P.M. – September 10th 8:55 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

September 12th 6:00 A.M. – 5:29 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

September 14th 11:31 A.M. – 10:23 P.M. ***Moon is void 11 hours

September 16th 3:05 P.M. – September 17th 12:22 A.M.***Moon is void 8 hours

September 18th 4:10 P.M. – September 19th 12:58 A.M.

September 20th 11:32 P.M. – September 21st 1:53 A.M.

September 23rd 3:57 A.M. – 4:33 A.M.

September 24th 9:42 P.M. – September 25th 9:48 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

September 27th 4:52 A.M. – 5:43 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

September 29th 6:05 A.M. – September 30th 3:52 A.M. ***Moon is void 24 hours

October 2nd 1:43 A.M. – 3:43 P.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

October 4th 9:04 P.M. – October 5th 4:26 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

October 7th 2:26 A.M. – 4:40 P.M. ***Moon is void 14 hours

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New York City

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