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## **LIVING BY STARLIGHT** an Astrological Newsletter

**August 2017**

### **AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

We are heading into an eclipse season that will have a powerful effect on our country and culture, and the world. On August 7 we will have a Full Moon lunar eclipse at 15 degrees Aquarius 25 minutes. On August 21 we will experience what's being called the "great American eclipse". **This is the first time a solar eclipse has occurred solely in the United States in our nation's history.** Its path will cut right through the center of our nation. This is going to be a big event, and thousands of people from around the world are planning trips to where it will be visible.

This is going to have a HUGE effect on the Trump presidency and the future of America. It is literally dividing our country in half, just as it has been divided ideologically for years. But now we're at a turning point where either we find some common ground or we are facing a potentially explosive conflict as we head towards the period of 2019-23 when the Capricorn stellium completes. **I have an article on my website titled: "2020" regarding that coming period.**

Eclipses have a long history of being harbingers of potent events. For thousands of years they have held our interest and stirred our collective imaginations, and for good reason. Many historical events are tied to the appearance of eclipses. Here are just a few:

\*\*\*The story goes that on February 29, 1504 Columbus and his sailors were on Jamaica and facing starvation as the indigenous people had cut off supplies to them in retribution for thefts by some of his mutinous men. Being a sailor, Columbus had planetary tables that were common in those days. They indicated a coming lunar eclipse visible on the island. He went to the tribal leaders and threatened to remove the Moon from the sky. As the eclipse began and the moon turned red, the frightened natives brought food and gifts to appease him, thus preventing starvation. Mark Twain used this as a literary device in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, his wonderful novel about time travel. If you've never read it, you should.

\*\*\*King Henri I of England died on a solar eclipse, which plunged England into a civil war that lasted 19 years, the exact length of one full eclipse cycle.

\*\*\*But perhaps one of the most ominous was the lunar eclipse of May 22, 1453. Constantinople was under

siege by the Ottomans. It had been predicted by astrologers and seers for many years prior that the great city would fall during an eclipse. Seven days later it was taken and sacked by the Ottomans, ending an empire that had lasted for more than a thousand years.

*Thanks to Ed Tamplin's recent article for WellBeing.com "Discover what the eclipses of 2017 mean for you".*

There are many more examples of historical events coinciding with the appearances of eclipses. And there are many excellent articles listing some of the world happenings they coincide with. It's important to remember that not all eclipses herald in disaster. Some are very positive and advantageous, and they should be studied as well. But with events occurring now in our nation, I don't think America will be the beneficiary of such luck. We can usually see the dominoes falling long before the last has gone down.

As we can see, the events that surround eclipses are often powerful and can generate serious and long lasting circumstances. It's also important to remember that an event doesn't have to exactly coincide with an astrological configuration to be a result of that aspect. Some stock market crashes have occurred weeks or even months prior to or after the astrological transit that sets them off, although I have found that most do happen within a close proximity of the aspect. Eclipses often denote the place in our worldly zodiac where something will happen, but as I said it may not take place for months afterwards. It is the point of the eclipse that matters. For example, this Solar Eclipse on August 21<sup>st</sup> occurs at 28 degrees Leo 53 minutes, very near Trump's Mars and exactly on his ascendant. **It will occur very near the fixed star Regulus, the king maker, one of the four royal ancient stars of Persia that represent the four fixed signs of the zodiac. Trump was born with Regulus conjunct his ascendant, which is one of the reasons he's president. But this eclipse conjunct that point in the sky indicates the potential fall of important leaders or statesmen, especially through vengeance.** Transiting Mars will be exactly at that degree on September 3, 2017. Many of us expect something to begin during the next month that may come to a head on that date. But it could take months before we see the results of this configuration.

Look at what's happening in our government. Trump is hunkering down to do battle over the ongoing Russian investigation and has threatened to fire all those involved if he doesn't get what he wants. If he does continue to dismiss those investigating him, it will lead to a constitutional crisis the likes of which we haven't seen since Watergate. It will take time. Nothing happens overnight, and although some issues may come to a head now or in September remember that it took several years to finally push Nixon out of office. The same timing should be watched in other world events as well, including the situation in North Korea, with China rattling its sword, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Any of those areas could explode at any time, but they are more likely to do so when Mars, the god of war, hits the point of this coming eclipse in September. It may just be the beginning of events that could take a long time to play out. But we will see the writing on the wall and our collective should pay close attention to prepare.

The next total solar eclipse will occur in July 2019, just as we are entering that "2020 period". The United

States will see another total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, just as we are at the end of that period.

Mercury, that mischievous little devil, will retrograde on August 12<sup>th</sup> in the critical sign of Virgo, and add another layer of complications and stress to our ongoing situation in Washington. Because of this eclipse season Trump may very well try to shut down the Russian investigation. On this retrograde Mercury it's quite possible that he will do just that. Remember, eclipses literally block out the light of the affected luminary, and that's exactly what he would like to do right now. Will he succeed? That's the question. We must demand that the light stay on and everything comes out in public. But when Mercury is Rx there is a tendency to hide, but often during this period secrets are revealed. We will uncover some important hidden information soon.

The fact that John McCain has fallen gravely ill right before this eclipse is in itself quite telling. This is a man who I don't often agree with politically, but I pray for his recovery. When he was running for president against Obama a woman at one of his rallies stood up and told him that she was frightened of McCain's opponent. McCain went over to her, took her hand and told her that Obama was an honest, decent, family man who was a good American. And she shouldn't believe the lies being told about him. He was just someone who disagreed with him on policies. Could you imagine Trump saying that? Not only is McCain an amazing man, with more courage and fortitude than most, but he is one of the few open and honest members of the senate who doesn't let his political perspective affect his humanity. As I said, I don't agree with many of his policies, and I would not vote for him, but I can't think of anyone I would rather have as an adversary. This is a mensch - a man who isn't afraid to stand up to anyone, no matter what their feelings or politics. He's been one of the few Republicans who aren't afraid to face the Trump administration and say what he feels. I hope he makes it. There are few voices in the Republican Party willing to take the risk of disagreeing with Trump and we will be in worse shape without him.

### **NEW MOON:**

**The New Moon falls on Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:46 A.M. EDT at 0 degrees Leo 44 minutes.** All New Moons reflect a new beginning. The degree that it completes will tell us much about what part of the cycle we are looking at. The later in the sign that this occurs the more likely we are to be in a phase of completion. When a New Moon is at zero degrees, as this one is, it implies a chance to start things fresh and give us an opportunity to move in a new direction, from the point of view of the sign Leo. Because of this zero degree placement the next New Moon will also be in Leo at 28 degrees 53 minutes. This is a rare occurrence and it shows that the energy building up will take two months to complete. Because the next New Moon is the so-called Great American eclipse what begins now will have serious consequences in late August and beyond. Pay attention to what's happening both in your own life and in our culture and you will see that there is a longer term continuation of events, ideas and plans than we usually experience. This is a chance to make some changes and to have more time to implement them. If you begin a process now and it's not at the stage you had hoped for by the end of this lunar cycle, don't fret. It will continue to evolve through August and you may not see the results until then.

Leo is the sign that rules the 5<sup>th</sup> house of children, creativity and romance. It rules the stage and acting, especially live performances, and a number of projects of some innovation will be presented to the public this summer and into the fall. Some children born this summer will project this energy and have a powerful effect on our society. Of course the natal chart must be examined carefully to see just how it will manifest, but often those born during an eclipse season are quite radical and unique in their own way. Trump was born under a Full Moon eclipse, and he certainly has had a major effect on the world.

### **VENUS OPPOSES SATURN:**

**On Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:53 A.M. EDT** this rather dour transit completes. Venus has much to do with personal relationships and financial matters. Saturn is the most restrictive of planets, and since all oppositions are worked out through other people, this may prove a daunting moment in our one-on-one connections. Any problems within a relationship will most likely be amplified today and show the limitations and underlying issues that are preventing growth in that relationship. While this may be a difficult day to interact, the underlying knowledge that is revealed can be very positive and allow us to take that association to the next stage of development. It's easy to think of Saturn as the devil. It is where we got the name Satan, after all. But that would be a mistake. In her wonderful book "Saturn, as New Look at an old Devil" Liz Green examines our perspective to this planet. It's worth the read. I see this as a harsh and unyielding energy that will not let us smooth over the problems in our relationships without serious consideration. And that might make this a rough few days. But most people do not change until they are forced to, and if we become too complacent in our personal relationships they will stagnate and eventually degenerate.

By looking at them with a clear and honest eye you may be able to improve and strengthen your most precious connections. This isn't the best day for a party, first date or other social gathering. It will be hard to feel very gregarious and many of us will not be terribly outgoing. It may be hard to show your emotions and extend yourself to your close people. It would be best used in contemplation and a reality check. Financial matters will also be difficult especially if this opposition hits a sensitive point in your chart. Be cautious with your money and with your friendships. They are among the most valuable things in your life. Once this passes you will be better able to express your feelings and reach out to others.

### **MERCURY TRINES URANUS:**

**Also on Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:32 P.M. EDT** this rather realistic aspect will complete. This is a good day to put your thought in order and clarify things that may be confusing. This is a very down to earth trine that should help us all put things in order and speak with a clear and concise voice. Because it follows the Venus – Saturn opposition to closely it should help us direct our conversations in a useful and productive way, particularly in regards to relationships. You should still be aware of any distancing you are feeling towards your close people, but if you take the time and effort to analyze your emotions and say what's on your mind you may be able to accomplish much in terms of communicating with a partner or close friend. This is a good aspect for any paperwork or for discussing business ventures and making plans.

### **MERCURY ENTERS VIRGO:**

**On Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:41 P.M. EDT until September 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:42 P.M. EDT** Mercury enters one of the two signs we give it rulership over. Virgo has a well-earned reputation for its critical side, and it's important to keep an open mind and try to express yourself without too much attitude. But this sign is also extremely good at detail and seeing things clearly. Because Mercury will retrograde in this sign it will remain here for an extraordinary long time, except for a brief return to Leo in early September. So we will be dealing with this energy for a while. Use this very positive and productive placement to your advantage. Look over any plans and ideas you have and get into the details. You can be quite succinct and ferret out mistakes or oversights. This is a very good placement for writers and anyone who must pay attention to the little things.

### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS MARS:**

**On Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:57 P.M. EDT** this potentially explosive transit completes. This is a very high energy aspect, and if used properly you can get a lot done in a short time. The results can be very positive and productive, but a word of caution is necessary. This can be a feisty and even physical aspect, and a certain amount of attention and restraint is called for. Whenever Mars is involved there is always the possibility of egos and tempers prevailing. When it is combust (conjunct the Sun) that possibility is heightened. If you're feeling angry, you must try to be conscious of it so you don't act out in an aggressive manner. You should also keep in mind that the other guy may be feeling his ego and anger as well, and you should act in a defensive way. Don't enter arguments that aren't worth your time and effort. And do not push your way into a situation, even if you feel you are right. Right and wrong have little meaning in violent or pugnacious circumstances. Sidestep any aggressive actions you can. If you're behind the wheel of a car you must recognize any tension you are feeling, and you should assume that the person in the car next you may also be experiencing some stress, so do not let your temper take control. But like I said above, if used carefully and directed into positive projects this can be very useful.

### **VENUS ENTERS CANCER:**

**On Monday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:54 A.M. EDT** love will take a decidedly romantic and familial tone. Venus does well in this water sign. It's a good time to express your deepest feelings, especially to family and close friends. You may feel like being around those you feel most comfortable with, and there is a strong desire to be at home where you feel secure. There may be a tendency to be a little overly sensitive, so pay attention and don't overreact to some small slight or misunderstanding. This is a good time to consider redecorating your home or your presentation. Buying new clothes, trying out a different hairstyle, or any other decorative change may be just the thing.

### **URANUS RETROGRADES:**

**On Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:31 A.M. EDT** this unusual planet begins its yearly backward motion. Uranus rules government of and by the people. All duly elected officials fall into this category. As such we will see some changes in how our government works. There may be some important issues that come up, and considering the eclipses we are facing this month I wouldn't be surprised by some decisions and actions

that are taken. With John McCain's health issues in the forefront of our minds and lives it may be that we will lose the input of one of the great lions of the senate. We may also see some reversals in attitudes and approaches to how we govern. Uranus is also the planet of sudden events and unexpected actions. With its retrograde motion beginning we could be surprised by how some respond to an event. Changes in attitude, and how some in our government vote, could be quite shocking. With all Uranus aspects the best way to prepare is to expect the unexpected.

### **JUPITER SQUARES PLUTO:**

**On Friday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:29 P.M. EDT** this powerful transit will complete for the last time. The combination of these two planets is often an indicator of power struggles, and our nation is in the midst of the most controversial internal brawl in many years. The two astrological reasons for Trump's victory were the Saturn – Neptune square that helped dissolve our sense of stability and reality and led to the election of someone so totally unprepared in knowledge and temperament for the job. The other cause was this Jupiter – Pluto square that guaranteed an ongoing battle for control. America is divided as it has never been since the end of the Civil War. That divide will become even more apparent as this aspect completes and the effects of it begin to seep into our daily life. This has been in the undercurrent all year and has had much to do with the almost irrational and unyielding attitudes many of us hold. Now that this is completing its effects will be more visible and we will see the results of the skirmishes in our political stage as well as in our individual lives. The aftermath and effects of this square will continue to influence our society for some time. The stock markets will most likely top out here, and I am waiting for the correction that I've been expecting.

In your own life, for the few days preceding this it would be wise to pick and choose your battles carefully. This isn't a violent aspect, as many Mars or Uranus transits can be, but it is very much a tug-of-war that will decide a number of issues in our lives.

### **FULL MOON:**

**This month's lunar peak occurs on Monday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:11 P.M. EDT at 15 degrees Aquarius 25 minutes and it's a Lunar Eclipse.** This is the first of two eclipses we are facing. Because this is a Full Moon eclipse it's important to pay attention to what's going on around you. All Full Moons require our attention, and because of the rather unpredictable energy of the sign, Aquarius Full Moons in particular deserve respect. Add to that the power of an eclipse and you will see the reason for concern that many astrologers are writing about. As I said earlier in this newsletter, this month is fraught with potential conflicts and possibly explosive events. Tread lightly and don't stir the waters too much. Use caution for a few days around this lunar peak and try to avoid conflict and unnecessary disagreements. This will be a very energetic transit that will push the envelope and could create upsetting events. But as with all transits, if it's used properly and respected it could also represent opportunities and a chance to break through a logjam that has been holding you back.

### **MERCURY SEXTILES VENUS:**

**On Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:03 A.M. EDT** this easy going and pleasant sextile will cool off some of what that Full Moon may have produced. This is a day to engage in light and fluffy conversations, socialize or take in some creativity. A show, museum or other artistic venture will be fulfilling and enjoyable. If there are rough spots in a relationship this would be a good day to smooth them over. With the Sun in sextile to Jupiter today as well this will be an outgoing and airy day. Take some time to see nature and enjoy yourself and those closest to you.

### **THE SUN SEXTILES JUPITER:**

**Also on Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:24 P.M. EDT** this very positive and sociable aspect completes. This is a good day to interact and for any sort of gathering or date. Many people will feel easy-going and wish to communicate those feelings. This is a good day to interact with people and to engage in any activity that will expand your consciousness. Travel is favored and it's a great time to begin a long summer weekend trip. If you can, get out of town and go someplace new and exciting. Jupiter needs input and this is a time to take off the blinders and see the world.

### **VENUSTINES NEPTUNE:**

**On Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:18 A.M. EDT** this very creative energy will offer us a day or so when we will all appreciate the artistic side of life. This is also a good time to explore your inner self and embrace the ethereal or spiritual point of view. This completes early in the morning and its effects will be felt most strongly on Friday night. But it will also set up the energy for Saturday. It would be a good few days to embrace nature or anything artistic. Visit a museum. You may get more out of the trip than usual. While it can be a social aspect it isn't really that energetic, so a quiet dinner or conversation would be better than a trip to an amusement park. But a calm day at the beach might be just the thing.

### **MERCURY RETROGRADES:**

**Also on Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:01 P.M. EDT until September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 A.M. EDT Mercury will be traveling backwards.** All retrograde Mercury periods are difficult. We often make mistakes and must use caution when dealing with communications, travel and paperwork. It's easy to overlook details or misunderstand something, so extra care is called for. Much of this retrograde takes place in Virgo, which makes it even more imperative that we examine the minute issues for errors. As with all Rx Mercury periods I offer the same advice. Don't sign important documents, pay attention to all issues involving communication and travel, and try to keep an open mind.

With the Trump problems coming to a head right now anything that occurs during this retrograde will take at least until Mercury goes direct to be clearly understood. Dealing with government problems is not easy or quick, and with this Rx Mercury sticking its head into this mess it will become ever more complicated and troubling. Don't expect a fast resolution. Some more secrets will be revealed, especially as this planet changed direction. With the Jupiter – Pluto square completing for the last time on August 4<sup>th</sup> we will see battle lines being drawn and the internal fight for control of our country become even more intense.

### **THE SUN TRINES SATURN:**

**On Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:06 P.M. EDT** this realistic and focused trine will give us all a day of conscious attention to detail. With Mercury just entering its retrograde period this will be more important than usual. Look things over carefully and make sure there are no mistakes. This trine offers us an opportunity to pay closer attention to details, which is exactly what we need to do under this Rx Mercury. This is a good day to make plans, clean up paperwork and put your house in order. It's not a very flamboyant or exciting aspect, but it has a very productive purpose and should be used correctly.

### **VENUS OPPOSES PLUTO:**

**On Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:13 A.M. EDT** power struggles in personal relationships will be widespread. If there's something you haven't brought out into the open it may very well be exposed now. This is chance to delve deeply into your relationships and to view them in an honest and open manner. Pluto has much to do with hidden agendas, and all oppositions play out through other people. You can expect some things to be revealed, and although they may not all be very pleasant or easy to face, the underlying purpose is to bring them out into the light so you can finally make repairs in the connection when possible, or end it altogether if that's what is needed. Don't be afraid of any transit. Face it clearly and you will learn its lessons. Then you can move on to the next phase.

### **VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:**

**On Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:40 A.M. EDT** Venus will now square Jupiter. This is a pleasant aspect, though it's often a low energy one. When these two get together we can feel lazy and may wish to just lounge around. That's fine as long as you don't have obligations to fulfill. But it really is a waste of a terrific transit. Even if you just feel like lying on the couch you should pull yourself up and get out into the world. This can be very sociable and you will enjoy the company of close friends. It's also quite creative. There is a tendency to overindulge in rich food and drink, so try to keep an eye on your consumption. Travel is usually very pleasant, but again you have to get out of the house to enjoy it.

### **MARS SEXTILES JUPITER:**

**On Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:42 P.M. EDT** this very positive sextile completes. This is a day when many of us will feel good physically and psychologically. Mars rules the ego, and when it's in good aspect to Jupiter our self-confidence tends to expand. This is good day for all interaction with others. You'll be assertive and can make your point without too much aggression. Once again travel is favored, so try to take a trip somewhere. All physical activity will also be pleasurable. A long walk, a day at the beach or other actions that use your muscles will be rewarding.

### **THE SUN TRINES URANUS:**

**On Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:23 A.M. EDT** this very positive trine completes right at the end of the lunar cycle. This is a good aspect for change, and with the New Moon coming later today you should look for



things you can complete and then prepare for new beginnings. Today is the Solar Eclipse I and many other astrologers have been writing about. The best way to prepare for it is with an open mind and heart. It's time to let go of some things that have outlived their usefulness and to embrace new concepts and explore our future. This trine only lasts a day or so, so it won't be strong enough to alter your path more than a little. But sometimes making a right instead of a left can make all the difference. Anything that has been stuck and bogged down can be pushed forward. But you must know what you're trying to accomplish so you can aim your energy in that right direction.

### **DARK OF THE MOON:**

**The next New Moon falls on Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 P.M. EDT at 28 degrees Leo 53 minutes and it's our infamous American Eclipse that will split the country right down the middle. 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.*

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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:

*Please note: In response to requests from 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.*

July 25<sup>th</sup> 5:22 A.M. – 6:32 A.M.  
July 27<sup>th</sup> 2:31 A.M. – 11:37 A.M.  
July 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30 P.M. – 8:23 P.M.  
July 31<sup>st</sup> 7:10 A.M. – August 1<sup>st</sup> 8:01 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 25 hours  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:38 P.M. – 8:37 P.M.  
August 6<sup>th</sup> 5:22 A.M. – 8:16 A.M.  
August 8<sup>th</sup> 3:07 P.M. – 5:56 P.M.  
August 10<sup>th</sup> 9:38 A.M. – August 11<sup>th</sup> 1:22 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 16 hours  
August 13<sup>th</sup> 4:01 A.M. – 6:40 A.M.  
August 14<sup>th</sup> 9:15 P.M. – August 15<sup>th</sup> 10:06 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 11 hours  
August 17<sup>th</sup> 9:38 A.M. – 12:13 P.M.  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 11:17 A.M. – 1:55 P.M.  
August 21<sup>st</sup> 2:30 P.M. – 4:25 P.M.  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:02 P.M. – 9:05 P.M.  
August 26<sup>th</sup> 1:39 A.M. – 4:53 A.M.  
August 28<sup>th</sup> 5:38 A.M. – 3:48 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 10 hours

**July 2017**

**New York City**

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