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LIVING BY STARLIGHT **an Astrological Newsletter**

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

This month **Neptune goes direct and Mercury retrogrades**. The change of direction of the planets changes our perspective and ideas. When a planet retrogrades it tends to direct the energy associated with that planet more internally. When it goes direct it brings that energy out into the world. For those of you who study astrology you know that the Rx motion of Mercury is difficult for travel and communications. That's because these issues have to do with relationships and how we interact with the outside world.

When Mercury is internalized during this period it's more difficult to express yourself, which makes communications difficult, and to get to where you wish to go. It's interesting that this transit will also affect actual products having to do with these two areas of life. You shouldn't buy a new computer, cell phone, car or airplane during a retrograde. Even a pair of sneakers could prove to be faulty, the wrong size, squash your toes or have other problems.

When Neptune retrogrades it makes spiritual and creative matters more difficult to express in the outside, but easier to work within the individual. Now that it's going direct we will be better able to display our artistic works and discuss our spiritual goals. Religious issues will come to the forefront, and many of us will have to face issues of our spiritual identity and direction.

Last month we saw the completion of Saturn in trine to Uranus in the fire signs. Now Saturn is getting ready to enter Capricorn in December and Uranus to enter Taurus in May 2018. These two will trine each other in these earth signs in September 2018. This trine has been one of the supportive transits that have held up the equity markets this past year. As it separates that support is beginning to falter. The stocks are very overbought. Much of the market's recent growth has to do with the tax bill that the house just passed and the senate will now consider. Corporations will reap HUGE rewards from this bill and investors have been putting money into the markets in the hopes that it will pass. If it does, the stocks should continue to climb for some time. If it fails they will drop appreciatively. The end result of this bill is unquestionably going to hurt the middle class and the working people of America.

This tax bill is a Trojan horse with hidden agendas that will suck the life out of everyone but the very rich. If it does go through, it will temporarily look like a boost to the economy on the surface. The stocks will go up and there will be a lot of posturing about how these changes will "trickle down" and increase jobs, wages and the economy in general, something that has been debunked by virtually every economist, including

those who had worked with Reagan when he pushed through his own “trickle down” tax bill. History has taught that this is a bullshit concept. But as the next few years go by we will all see just what this bill is – the biggest theft in the history of humanity. The corporate tax cuts will be permanent, while any small cuts to the individual will expire in a few years. This bill will gut the Affordable Care Act, remove tax exemptions mostly to “blue” states, and heavily favor the richest people in our nation. The Republicans are claiming that the cuts to corporations will stimulate job creation, increase in wages and expansion of the economy. The only problem is that **even an overwhelming number of CEOs have denounced this as a big lie. The largest majority of business leaders have said just the opposite – that any gains they receive will go back into the pockets of stock holders and corporate heads. Almost none of them believe that these cuts will lead to any growth whatsoever.**

Because of the laws in place the huge increase to the deficit that this bill will create, an estimated one point two TRILLION dollars will have to be addressed over the coming years with congress legally demanding cuts to programs in order to satisfy those laws. We all know exactly where those cuts will come from. There will be billions taken from Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The gutting of these programs has been a goal of the Republican Party since their inception. And this tax bill is the way they will circumvent conventional ways of trying to do so. By passing this bill they will put the Democrats in congress in a most awkward position of legally having to agree to cuts no matter how much they won't want to. They won't have a choice.

SO WHY AREN'T WE OUT IN THE STREETS PROTESTING THIS BILL? Is it that most people simply don't understand the economics of it? Or have we grown weary of the struggle? THIS TAX BILL WILL CHANGE AND DAMAGE OUR NATION MORE THAN ANY OF THE REPULSIVE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD ALREADY. By destroying the safety net that poor and working class people rely on, and by stripping the middle class of its hard earned money through manipulative economics, the hope by the right-wing is that they will simply wear down any opposition and push the middle class against the wall taking away our ability to fight. Added to the voter repression laws, the attack against so-called blue states, and the ongoing pressure on a dozen fronts they believe they will be able to manipulate the vote and keep control over the government for a long time. I know we're all tired of marching in the streets and waving posters with slogans. But you simply must understand what is about to happen in America. Please do some research on this tax bill and recognize that it is neither a tax cut, nor tax reform. It is simply an enormous rip off.

According to the New York Times this bill will give about one BILLION dollars to the Trump family. I'm not a constitutional expert, but that just can't be legal and it certainly isn't moral. This administration has torn apart our system of government as well as our status in world events. Until Trump is out of the White House we are all living under a cloud of misuse, corruption and the threat of collapse of the already fragile middle class that is primarily responsible for holding this country together. Lord protect me from my government, for I can protect myself from my enemies.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Saturday November 18th at 6:42 A.M. EST at 26 degrees Scorpio 19 minutes, and it is a Void of Course New Moon. Scorpio is most interested in deep rooted changes. It rules the concept of death and rebirth, and has much to do with the rejuvenation process we all experience throughout our lives. Scorpio energy feels things on a very intense and deeply personal level. With the Sun, Venus and Jupiter in this sign now as well as this New Moon there will be a strong desire to uproot any hidden agendas and expose what's under the surface. We will all be experiencing life on a deep and unconscious level. Scorpio and its ruler, Pluto rule the elimination of waste in the body and the society, and most likely we will see more secrets being revealed and the uncovering of the true nature of events, not just what's exposed through social media. In your personal life you need to be prepared for anything that requires reworking or put onto a new path. And expect some things to show their toxicity requiring a cleansing. This is a small harbinger of what we can expect during the period of 2019-23 as America goes through its Pluto return, and we experience Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and Pluto all conjunct our nation's natal Pluto.

Because this New Moon falls so late in this sign it turns Void of Course right after the conjunct to the Sun. This occurs periodically for several months in a row when the New Moons happen so late in the cycle. On a personal level don't expect things to work out as you had planned this month. This doesn't mean that you can't have success or that everything will unravel. It only means that we should keep an open mind and not be too stubborn or set in our opinion. Void moons are unattached to any planet through Polemic aspects, and so the energy is somewhat unfocused. It isn't aimed in a particular direction, and requires a looser approach. If you use this energy properly and allow for the sudden and unexpected changes that may occur, you will avoid most difficulties. But if you're too rigid and unbending you may find your plans unable to come to fruition. Use this energy to clean out your closet so you can move forward into the next phase of your life.

MARS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Sunday November 19th at 7:11 A.M. EST this intense and potentially dangerous transits completes. This is a day or so when caution is called for. Remember, aspects are most powerful as they are applying, and wane in their influence as they separate. So for a day or so leading up to this square you should be careful in your interactions with others. These are the two rulers of Scorpio, and since we are currently enmeshed in that sign's energy with Venus, Jupiter, the Sun and the New Moon all traveling there, this square may be very effective at forcing some issues to the surface and exposing what's been hidden underneath. It may come out as explosive or deeply vengeful actions, so please be careful.

VENUS SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Tuesday November 21st at 6:26 A.M. EST we will continue to seek to uncover what is hidden. Venus is currently traveling through Pluto-ruled Scorpio so this sextile will have more intensity than usual. It is a chance to view relationship issues in a deep and honest fashion. Sextiles are easy to work with if you do so in a proactive manner. You should use the energy of Scorpio and Pluto to make changes before they are

forced upon you. Venus has rulership over money, in a general sense, while Pluto rules the resources we share with other, so this sextile may also show us areas in our joint financial matters that are shaky and should be viewed with care. If, as I believe, we are heading towards a correction in the markets, it will become more obvious.

THE SUN ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Tuesday November 21st at 10:05 P.M. EST we enter the mutable fire sign that will lead us into winter. Even if it's been feeling more and more like the season of our discontent, we aren't really in winter until the first day of Capricorn. This sign is ruled by Jupiter, the philosopher of the zodiac. Sagittarius is interested in expansion in all areas of life. Most Sags like to travel, they are often involved in education and are often outgoing and gregarious. While the Sun travels her there will be an underlying desire to interact socially and look for new ways of seeing the world. The desire to learn new things is strong, which is why travel is often associated with this sign. It's one way that we enlarge our perspective. Try to keep an open mind about things. This is a mutable sign and as such is apt to change direction at any moment.

NEPTUNE GOES DIRECT:

On Wednesday November 22nd at 9:21 A.M. EST this most complicated and mystical planet will turn around and begin its direct motion. This is a good aspect for those involved in the arts, medicine and spiritual activities. While Neptune was in retrograde these areas became more internal and many people put their efforts into developing ideas or projects in isolation. Now that it's reversing direction these projects will finally be ready for the outside to view. If you're working in the arts and you've been holding onto a piece of creative work this maybe a good time to let the world take a look. All matters of spirit will come to the surface. While this planet has much to do with religion, its real domain is where faith lies, no matter what form it takes, either orthodox doctrine or spirituality.

MERCURY TRINES URANUS:

On Saturday November 25th at 5:55 A.M. EST this trine will speed up our thoughts and communications. This is a positive transit so we can use it to our advantage. It's easier to direct this energy than if this were a conjunct, opposition or square between these two. But it still will move things along at an accelerated rate, so try to stay on top of what's happening around you. Because of the recently completed trine between Uranus and Saturn, Mercury will conjunct Saturn in a few days and the atmosphere will change quite a bit. For a day or so as this applies you should look for new and innovative ways of expressing yourself. Any ideas that have been festering should be looked at in the light of day. You may have a very exciting and original perspective.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Tuesday November 28th at 1:59 A.M. EST we will all feel the pressure of Saturn on our communications. **Because of Mercury's imminent retrograde this will return on December 6th and January 12th.** It's a difficult day for stream of consciousness thinking or innovative ideas. This is a day of

very realistic thought with little room for frivolity. Buckle down and get the grunt work done. Many of us will feel tired, especially if this hits your chart. Energy will be limited so use what there is to your best advantage. If you have an important conversation it will be all about reality and business, so be prepared to deal with things on that level. Get to the heart of the matter and talk it out. That's the only way you will achieve your desired goal. Trying to cloud the issue or distract from the real point will not work and it may lead to an argument. People will tend to be rather short tempered so I suggest that you avoid any situations that may lead to disputes. Travel may be difficult and there will be delays. While this isn't a terribly accident-prone aspect you may encounter construction or breakdowns, so leave extra time.

VENUS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Friday December 1st at 4:14 A.M. EST until December 25th at 12:26 A.M. EST Venus enters this expansive sign. There will be fewer ground rules in love and finances. People will be more apt to take risks in both areas. You can expect some serious moves in the stock markets, no matter which direction they are heading. Sag doesn't do things in small measure, but would rather push the envelope to the limit. In romance I advise that you make sure you know exactly what the relationship being offered is about. It's easy to blow things out of proportion in this sign, and that certainly includes love. In your personal finances you should keep an eye on where your money is going. It's too easy to overspend, gamble or just lose track and wind up with shortages you could have easily prevented.

MARS OPPOSES URANUS:

Also on Friday December 1st at 5:04 A.M. EST this potentially explosive and dangerous aspect will push many people into disagreements. Mars rules the ego. Uranus has no regard for boundaries. When these two come into contact there is a good chance of things blowing up. This could result in accidents, arguments, or even violence, so use caution and respect this aspect. It will be felt most strongly the night before. We may see a severely bad day or two in the markets. It may begin today or on Monday. In any case we are in a period of potential difficulties in the stocks and this opposition followed by the Rx Mercury, the Sun square Neptune and the Full Moon all on Sunday represents a few days of trouble.

JUPITER TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Saturday December 2nd at 9:22 P.M. EST this aspect completes for the first of three passes. It will return in May & August, and its influence will be felt all year. The trines allow us to easily use the combination of planetary energies in a proactive manner. Jupiter is the ancient ruler of Pisces and Neptune is the modern ruler, and there is an affinity between these two heavenly bodies. They are both concerned with spiritual matters, though they go about it in much different ways. For the most part, Jupiter works through the material plane, while Neptune's domain is the ethereal. When they are working well together it's easier to connect the two spheres of consciousness and to understand how they function and to use the energy in a directed and focused way. Neptune also rules music, movies, photography and much of the artistic world, and with Jupiter's ability to expand whatever it comes in contact with this will be a very useful transit for those working in the creative fields. Try to break down existing barriers in your art and seek new ways of expression. We will also see some new concepts in religious or spiritual matters.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Sunday December 3rd at 2:34 A.M. EST until December 22nd at 8:51 P.M. EDT the fun begins again! Because Mercury will be retrograding in Sagittarius it will be in this sign for a long time. This is a nice place for Mercury as it can bring optimism and enthusiasm to many issues and ideas. But there is a tendency to overdo things when Sagittarius is involved, and you may find people talking a lot and more than willing to unveil some secrets or things that perhaps would be better off left unsaid. There will be a lot of activity and socializing. It's a good placement for it for the holidays because of its outgoing energy. But as with Mercury in retrograde in any of the signs there are certain warnings that should be heeded. Because many of us will be traveling this month we can expect some extra difficulties and delays. Whenever Mercury has been in Rx during the holiday season we have seen the mess it can create. Accidents, miscommunication, overcrowding, and other travel problems may be rampant. Leave lots of time to make your connections, and try to book your flight, train trip or rental car for a day that isn't normally overwhelmed by holiday travelers. Because the shopping season is under this influence you may not want to purchase cell phones, computers, tablets, scooters, cars or any other toys involved in communication or travel. But many of us will do just that. Make sure the warranty is in the box. You may have to make use of it once Mercury goes direct.

THE SUN SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Sunday December 3rd at 6:44 A.M. EST this difficult and confusing transit will complete. Things may not be what they appear and you would be wise to second guess what you're being told. This is a low energy few days when you may not have your usual strength and direction. If you're feeling tired up should just rest. Your power will return soon. And if you feel out of sorts or misdirected use caution. Because the Gemini Full Moon follows this square in a few hours, and Mercury has just gone into retrograde, this may be a day of serious problems in travel and communication. This square will add confusion and misunderstandings to the already problematic atmosphere that the Rx Mercury has most likely already started. And with the Mercury-ruled Full Moon in Gemini this is a day to pay attention to your surroundings and sidestep any unimportant situations.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday December 3rd at 10:47 A.M. EST at 11 degrees Gemini 40 minutes. This should be an exciting few days. Mercury is beginning its backward motion now and the Sun square Neptune will add a level of mysticism to all that we do. The Gemini Full Moon is all about communication and relationships. Travel may be very difficult this week, and it's important that you double check all plans and make sure you know exactly where you're heading. Your conversations will be intense and forceful, but it may not be easy to fully understand what's being said. Don't be afraid to question things. But don't get into useless arguments or you could find that you are spinning your wheels to no end. It's better to wait until this energy passes to engage in any discussion that requires a clear and systematic approach.

With this buildup of difficult transits all hitting today I wouldn't be surprised by some event occurring. Of course by now we've become somewhat complacent about world events and almost expect something on a regular basis. I hope I'm wrong, but something involving transportation looks very possible. Also, this coming week may be very bad for the equity markets.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Wednesday December 6th at 7:05 A.M. EST this harsh aspect returns. We just had this on November 28th (see above) and this is the 2nd of three passes. Whenever these two planets come in contact it's a hard day for communications. Everyone is thinking in a critical and realistic manner and there seems to only be time to take care of the most important issues, so deal with your most pressing matters first. Expect people to be short tempered and limited in their perspective. Don't expect them to be open-minded. It's more likely that you will face barriers in any attempt to start new projects or be innovative in your thoughts and ideas. Mercury is currently in retrograde, so you must use extra care when traveling today. This isn't a very creative aspect, but it works quite well helping you take care of business and putting your life or your work in order. It isn't great for starting a new book, song or painting, but it's a very good aspect for editing or finishing up something you're begun.

MERCURY SEXTILES MARS:

Also on Wednesday December 6th at 10:58 A.M. EST this more energetic combination will add some much needed oomph and help us use that Mercury – Saturn energy to a positive effect. This will not overwhelm that conjunct. It's not as powerful. But it will help get you off the couch and interact with others. Don't assume you have your usual power. This will still be a low energy day with a limit to what you can accomplish. But because Mars is in sextile to Saturn today as well you can get some things done if you focus your attention where it is most needed. The best way to handle this combination is to ignore all frivolous actions and aim your energy into those things that require completion. Don't try to start new projects. Clean up those that are already ongoing and put your house in order.

MARS SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Wednesday December 6th at 4:21 P.M. EST this positive but limiting sextile takes place. Mars is our energy, ego and basic life force. Saturn is the most restrictive of planets that demands close attention and scrutiny. When these are used well together we can get a lot done in a short period, but there are limits to what we can do and how best to go about it. Think of this as a laser that can be aimed at a small area. It's quite powerful, but only over a small range. If you try to do too much you will probably fail at most of it. But if you choose a single objective and put all of your powers into that you have a very good chance of success.

MARS ENTERS SCORPIO:

On Saturday December 9th at 4:00 A.M. EST until January 26th 2018 Mars enters one of the signs of its rulership. This is going to be a period of intensity in many areas. People will be digging deeply into things

and won't accept superficial answers. Recognize just how much our action is ego fueled and try not to confront anyone's individuality or self-worth confrontationally. It's better to pick and choose your battles carefully. You're not going to win them all, but it's possible to succeed in the most important ones. And that's really what the goal is. Mars is the god of war, and where it's transiting at any given time is how we will all deal with disputes and differences of opinion. Scorpio is a fixed sign and can at times be very unbending. Don't expect others to yield to your will. And be prepared to have to defend your ideas and stand up for your position.

MERCURY TRINES URANUS:

On Sunday December 10th at 4:30 A.M. EST this positive aspect returns. We had this on November 25th (see above) and because of the retrograde motion of Mercury it will return for a total of three passes. This is similar to the last pass. It will speed up our thoughts and communications, and offer us all a chance to grasp concepts quickly and fully. This should be used to our advantage, and the best way to do that is to keep an open mind and not fall into the pattern of following doctrine or relying on the tried and true. You should be looking at issues from a new perspective and thinking in innovative and unusual ways. Everything will be moving along at an accelerated rate, so try not to get lost. Travel will be quite exhilarating and it may open your consciousness to a new way of handling an old problem.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Sunday December 10th at 8:48 A.M. EST this complicated square will make relationships somewhat difficult to figure out. If you're not sure about someone don't make a commitment. Any new connection that begins under this influence needs to prove itself and show that it is based in reality. It's easy to get caught up in a romantic notion when Neptune is involved, and that's fine for the short term. But relying on that romance to continue is a fool's paradise. Neptune is all about illusion and misdirection, and only after this has passed will you be able to see the situation clearly. Venus also rules money, so be careful with yours. It's very easy to spend freely without realizing it and suddenly find yourself short of resources.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Tuesday December 12th at 8:49 P.M. EST this common aspect completes. This occurs several times a year and offers a day of strong opinions and a somewhat stubborn attitude. People will be willful and compromise may be difficult. That is its strength and its weakness. This can be a very positive aspect for communication as long as you know exactly what your goals are. You won't be easily swayed from your point of view and you can express things directly and with force. But if there is a difference of opinion it will be hard to bend. Keep that in mind when you're making your perspective known.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Friday December 15th at 9:09 A.M. EST we begin the day with a pleasant mood and an open attitude. This isn't a very powerful aspect, but it makes all communications pleasurable and light-hearted. It's a good

morning for breakfast with a friend or to talk over something that may be difficult. You can discuss issues in an easy going fashion. But you should also realize that this combination does not like disagreements and you could seek compromises that aren't realistic and not be satisfied with the results once this passes. A long walk or a drive in the country will be very enjoyable. It's a day to get out and socialize.

THE SUN TRINES URANUS:

On Saturday December 16th at 6:27 A.M. EST this very positive energy will complete early in the day. This is a brief time of innovative and open thoughts and actions. Uranus wants new and original ideas and with it in trine to the Sun we should all be a bit more in touch with that concept. This is a good morning to look over your life and seek a new way of approaching situations that may have felt bogged down. You may find a solution that you've missed in the past. Anything that feels new and exciting will have a positive effect on you and you should get out into the world and explore. This is a sociable energy and any interaction with others will be pleasurable.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Monday December 18th at 1:30 A.M. EST at 26 degrees Sagittarius 31 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 Daylight Time:

November 18th 6:42 A.M. – 1:59 P.M. ***Moon is void 7 hours

November 20th 7:26 P.M. – November 21st 2:14 A.M. ***Moon is void 7 hours

November 23rd 5:33 A.M. – 3:14 P.M. ***Moon is void 10 hours

November 25th 9:37 P.M. – November 26th 3:04 A.M.

November 28th 7:09 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

November 30th 1:37 P.M. – 3:38 P.M.

December 1st 8:53 P.M. – December 2nd 4:21 P.M. ***Moon is void 20 hours

December 4th 2:13 P.M. – 3:37 P.M.

December 6th 12:56 P.M. – 3:37 P.M.

December 8th 5:40 P.M. – 6:09 P.M.

December 10th 10:02 P.M. – December 11th 12:01 A.M.

December 13th 7:27 A.M. – 8:59 A.M.

December 14th 8:42 P.M. – December 15th 8:07 P.M.

December 18th 8:10 A.M. – 8:33 A.M.

December 20th 10:37 A.M. – 9:29 P.M. ***Moon is void 11 hours

December 23rd 5:13 A.M. – 9:42 A.M.

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