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LIVING BY STARLIGHT **an Astrological Newsletter**

JULY 2017

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 continue to struggle with the wide political divide in our nation. This is no longer the America of my youth when different opinions could take place while we shared our commonality. The music, movies, books and other cultural activities that used to bind us no longer seem to. That's a shame. But until we can find a way to bridge that gap at least enough to enjoy the same things, I'm afraid that's how it will be. Certainly there are some events and works of art that we enjoy equally. But the underlying animosity has grown so toxic it's hard to find our similarities.

The issue of health care in this nation has long been a difficult one. It represents about one sixth of our economy, and strikes very much at the heart of our existence. If you or a loved one is suffering or limited in your movements by a disease, injury or psychological problem you know how terribly stressful that can be, and how unfair it seems. This is not going to have an easy fix. The senate version of a health care bill is even more selfish and destructive than the house version. I find it difficult to believe that there are so many in this country willing to put their very lives in jeopardy just for partisanship. The Republicans see things so differently than the Democrats it's hard to believe that it will ever be worked out. The underlying theme of this battle is the distribution of wealth held jointly by *we the people*. The Republicans want to make huge cuts in Medicaid that will leave millions of the most vulnerable citizens in danger. They wish to give that money to the wealthiest Americans as tax cuts. The Democrats believe that without a strong safety net our country will suffer dire consequences. This is an 8th house issue, for those of you astrologically geared, and with Pluto, ruler of the 8th house, about to begin its first return in America's chart (please see my article about 2020 on my website) that is exactly what is leading this uncivil war. Of course the craziest part of all of this is that many of those who voted for this president and are supporting the Republican point of view are the very ones who will suffer the most. Until we find a solution that is acceptable to both we will continue this battle.

This month we will have a number of Pluto aspects that will give us an indicator of what we're going to be dealing with the next few years as we approach the next presidential election. It won't be easy and we won't be satisfied with superficial answers. Pay attention to the energy as these Pluto aspects occur and multiply it exponentially. That's what we are heading towards if we do not find an answer.

I'm a Cancer, born on July 15th, and I've always been a summer baby. I live for this time of year, although I often don't have the time to freely enjoy it as much as I'd like to. Still, just getting outside when the temperature is over 80 makes me smile. And I love to travel, especially to the beach. So I wish you all a pleasant, exciting and relaxing summer. May you have as much fun as you can stand, and hopefully see something new you hadn't experienced before.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Friday June 23rd at 10:31 P.M. EDT at 2 degrees Cancer 47 minutes. This is a good chance to make changes in your attitude, especially towards relationships and emotional issues. The sign of Cancer has a well-earned reputation for its depth of feelings, its powerful attachment to the past, and to family and close emotional relationships. This is a good time to examine your important associations and see if there are ways to improve them and to break through any barriers that are preventing better understanding. But don't try to be too intellectual about it. You will do better approaching things from an emotional perspective. Most people are insecure on some level and need reassurance. You'll find a stronger bond can be created when you share your feelings.

America is a Cancer country, and although it may be going through some fundamental changes now, throughout most of its history it was the connection to the emotional things we all held dear that kept us together even in the most difficult times. Movies, such as *It's a Wonderful Life*, or *Miracle on 34th Street* had a unifying theme that transcended politics and personal views. It was all about family, love and all those Cancer topics. Today the chasm between parties and ideologies has grown so wide that it's far more difficult to bridge the gap with a movie, song or other unifying artistic endeavor. But I have some hope that there is still commonality in our feelings with the power to reach out and share with those you disagree with.

Anyway, for the next month pay more attention to your feelings and those of others and try to be as loving as you can. It might make a difference in someone's life, and it will certainly be good for your soul. Spend time with your nearest and dearest, and try to heal the wounds that have created rifts in your social circle. This will be a good month to repair or redecorate the homestead. Many of us will have a stronger desire to spend time in the home and you may prefer to entertain in the backyard rather than in public.

VENUS TRINES PLUTO:

On Saturday June 24th at 4:57 A.M. EDT we will have an opportunity to dig deep into our relationships and make changes without the usual struggle. The trines and sextiles allow us to use the energy of the two planets in a harmonious and easy manner. Pluto wants you to uncover anything that is hidden. With Venus representing our closest connections this is a time to redirect your energy and alter your attitude to improve them. Any relationship that needs to be redirected can be changed more readily now.

Venus also has much to do with money. It represents the 2nd house of possessions and values, while Pluto expresses the opposite 8th house of other people's resources and things we hold jointly with others. This

combination will offer us an opportunity to reevaluate how we deal with resources and what is most valuable to us.

MARS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Sunday June 25th at 2:07 A.M. EDT this exciting and energetic aspect will complete. If this sets off your chart you may find yourself a bit overly excited and should find ways to direct the excessive force being emitted. While this square can be very positive it's also quite possible to let your ego get the better of you and to act out in an arrogant or overbearing manner. Keep an eye on that. As long as you are working from a place of understanding and compassion this should be a good day with a lot of vigor. But if someone lets you know that you're being overly aggressive, take that to heart and try to pull back.

MARS TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Monday June 26th at 2:19 A.M. EDT this trine completes. This aspect offers us an opportunity to combine the ego energy that is usually quite selfish with a deeper need to serve the collective. This is a quick moving transit that will be effective for a day or so, so I don't expect miracles. But its influence can open our consciousness to an attitude of giving and sharing. It's also a very positive aspect for anyone in the arts, medicine and healing, or charity work. We are able to experience what others are going through without foregoing our own purpose. The trines make it easy to use the energy of the two planets in tandem and that's exactly how this should be considered.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER & TRINES NEPTUNE:

On Tuesday June 27th at 2:21 P.M. & 8:23 P.M. EDT these two aspects complete. Because we are experiencing a Jupiter – Neptune inconjunct these two planets are being aspected by the quicker moving transits in rapid succession. The early part of this day will be influenced by the square to Jupiter, which will quicken the mind and expand our point of view. There is a strong desire to say exactly what's on your mind, often without the usual filters we employ. Jupiter has little regard for boundaries and it will influence that Mercurial mental energy. Use some caution, as it's quite possible to say things you probably shouldn't say. Also some care is called for while traveling. Your mind may be moving too quickly and you could be distracted.

The later part of the day will be more internalized and focused on creativity and spirituality. The trine to Neptune tends to be a spiritual energy rather than a materialistic one. It's a creative force and may give you an inspirational thought or two that can be worked into something lasting.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS MARS:

On Wednesday June 28th at 3:51 P.M. EDT this feisty aspect will complete. This is an argument waiting to happen. If you're aware of its influence you may be able to fend off any trouble. But if it sets off your chart, it may be difficult to sidestep disagreements. Stay conscious of any underlying anger you may be feeling. It's also quite possible to be the victim of someone else's frustration. People will be apt to say exactly

what's on their minds in a direct and even pushy manner. Try not to take things personally. It may have nothing to do with you, and if you are able to step back you can recognize that the other person is just spewing their own anguish. Use plenty of caution when traveling, especially in a car. Road rage is common with this configuration, and because Mars is sitting on Mercury, distractions are very possible. It only takes a second for an accident, so pay attention. Also use care when handling sharp objects and machinery.

MERCURY OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Thursday June 29th at 8:34 P.M. EDT this opposition occurs. Because we are experiencing Mars opposite Pluto (see below) Mercury is aspecting both in short order. This is a continuation of the energy mentioned above with Mercury conjunct Mars. You can expect people to be rather intense until the end of the week, so please be careful. This opposition will make many of us wish to delve deeply into subjects and not accept superficial answers. It can cause difficulties, especially if you try to hide from the truth. The best way to handle this energy is to directly confront anything that comes up, and to try and distinguish between what is really important and what is just the release of tension. If something is worth your time, then by all means discuss it openly. But if you think someone is just being explosive for the sake of expressing their anger you would be better off begging off in a gentle way and suggesting that you talk about it in a few days after the Mars opposite Pluto has completed. Here too you should use caution when in a car. Pent up anger is common and it may create problems.

MARS OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Sunday July 2nd at 7:58 A.M. EDT this very difficult opposition completes. This will be felt for a few days in advance, and its influence will continue through today. These are the 2 planets we give rulership over Scorpio. And since all oppositions work through other people you can expect some conflicts and stress. This is not a good time to try and work things out or smooth over minor issues. This is an aspect that will dig deeply into things and can be used to uncover the truth or force hidden agendas into the open. If something is worth your time and effort this would be a good chance to bring it out into the light. But don't waste this energy on mundane or unimportant things. Be careful when dealing with others. There can easily be arguments or even physical encounters. It's not at all necessary, and with a little awareness you can avoid most difficulties. But there will be a lot of tension in the air. I wouldn't be surprised if we had yet another in this terrible series of attacks. I hope that's not the case, but be careful and pay attention to where you're going and what's happening around you. At its best this is a good opportunity to cut through a lot of B.S. and get the heart of the matter.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Tuesday July 4th at 8:12 P.M. EDT until July 31st at 10:54 A.M. EDT Venus travels through this Mercury ruled sign. For the next 4 weeks we will be dealing with this placement. Relationships will be more intellectual and you may find it easier to win over your paramour or improve an existing connection through logic and rational rather than the usual emotional route. It's not that people won't feel romantic, but there are many ways to reach out to another. For now they will respond more readily to your communication and coherent arguments. Be smart about how you approach your partner.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Tuesday July 4th at 8:51 P.M. EDT this difficult aspect completes on the holiday. This requires some caution. Everything will speed up (except the traffic). Information will come at us at an accelerated pace and it may be hard to keep up. There is a tendency to speak without thinking things through, and arguments are quite possible. Don't take the bait if the disagreement isn't worth your time. Be extra careful while traveling, especially in a car. Distractions are common and it will only take a moment to create an issue. People will be feisty and many will be looking for an argument. There is tension with this square and that could easily lead to road rage. With so many people traveling this week we may see some very difficult problems.

MERCURY ENTERS LEO:

On Wednesday July 5th at 8:20 P.M. EDT until July 25th at 7:41 P.M. EDT Mercury will travel through this fixed fire sign. The ego feels at home in Leo, ruler of the stage and acting, and the planet of thought and speech can do quite well here. There's a desire to get your point across honestly and without any emotional attachment, though there may be some dramatics involved. It will make people a bit stubborn and unyielding, but there will be directness and a desire to express ourselves without hesitation. Expect to hear exactly what's on someone's mind and you should react in kind. Be open and try not to overemphasize things.

THE SUN TRINES NEPTUNE & SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Wednesday July 5th at 8:47 P.M. & 10:44 P.M. EDT respectively the Sun will aspect Neptune and Jupiter. This combination will put a lot of emphasis on the philosophical and spiritual side of things. There's a tendency to look at the world through the ethereal portal and issues of belief, religion and metaphysics will be an underlying theme. The square to Jupiter has a tendency to blow things out of proportion, so try to keep that in check. Don't overeat, overspend or take on too many promises. You simply won't be able to keep up with them. This is a good day for traveling, especially to a serene setting.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday July 9th at 10:12 P.M. EDT at 17 degrees Capricorn 09 minutes. Capricorn is all about stability and securing a strong foundation. If there are issues in your life or in our culture that are unstable they will come up now and demand our attention. In your personal life try to examine what you're doing and see if there's a better way that can shore up your structure. It will become obvious if there are any areas of your life that are shaky. They will show their weakness and you'll realize that you're standing on quicksand. If our societal and political arenas this will also be obvious. The strain that our culture is feeling will be exacerbated by this Full Moon. That may be a difficult thing, but not necessarily a bad one. It's only by exposing a problem that we can fix it. And with the Sun about to oppose Pluto tomorrow this may be a few days of some serious and harsh truths.

THE SUN OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Monday July 10th at 12:31 A.M. EDT this rather intense and difficult opposition will bring up a lot of feistiness and may result in arguments and power struggles. Try to avoid those that aren't worth your time. But if something arises and you feel it is important enough to deal with, you will be better off confronting it head on. The best way to handle Pluto aspects is honestly and without illusion. This can be a harsh aspect, especially if it hits a sensitive point in your chart. But it can also offer us an opportunity to dig deeply into issues and fix any problems that you have been avoiding. The ongoing battles in congress will get a jolt today as well. But it may bring to light areas that can in fact be improved.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Friday July 14th at 4:46 P.M. EDT this very positive aspect will open up conversations and ideas and allow us the chance to see things in a different light. Many of us will be optimistic and outgoing, and this is a very sociable transit. It's a good day for any gathering, party or other interaction. Travel is favored and even a short trip will expand your consciousness. This is a day to learn something new, and anyway you can do that will be rewarding. Conversations will run smoothly and it's a good time to get in touch with someone you've been meaning to call.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Monday July 17th at 10:34 A.M. EDT this confusing transit will make relationship issues rather foggy for a day or so. Financial matters will not be clear, and you should use some caution with you money. Don't spend too much on something that you aren't completely sure you need and want. Once this passes you may regret your decision. You must also use caution when dealing with others, and accept the fact that you may not be seeing things in the clearest way. Interactions with others will be cloudy and you may misinterpret what is being said and what the motivation is. With Mars in square to Uranus today as well this could be a difficult time. People will not only be confused, but on edge as well. It's not the best day to try and work through things. If possible just let them be for a day until easier transits occur.

MARS SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Monday July 17th at 9:35 P.M. EDT this potentially explosive transit will add an undercurrent of tension and anxiety to an already confusing day. This is a fight waiting to happen. You don't have to let it happen to you. Be careful on your journey and try to sidestep any unnecessary disputes. Pay attention to what's happening around you and don't walk into a dangerous situation. There will be a lot of energy in the air, and if you handle this properly you can accomplish a great deal and be more assertive and direct than usual. But you may come across someone else who is also being overly aggressive. There could be some violence in the world. Unfortunately we've become almost numbed to these events. The Sun will also square Uranus on July 20th (see below) so we are in the middle of a brief period of tension and aggression. Be careful.

VENUS TRINES JUPITER:

On Tuesday July 18th at 4:08 P.M. EDT this wonderfully social and outgoing aspect will give us a day of peace. This is a great aspect for any shared event or entertainment. This combination does tend to create a bit of laziness, and you may not feel like doing too much. But it's such a nice aspect that you shouldn't just sit home. Get out and see the world. Have lunch or dinner with friends or take in a show, movie or museum. You'll appreciate the creative arts a great deal and it's worth the effort.

MERCURY TRINES SATURN:

On Wednesday July 19th at 3:16 P.M. EDT this very focused energy will give us a day of realistic attitudes and a desire to express ourselves in a clear and concise manner. This trine is very good for dealing with details and for fixing or cleaning up any paperwork including creative ventures. Conversations will be direct and honest, and we can all cut through the B.S. and get to the heart of the matter.

MARS ENTERS LEO:

On Thursday July 20th at 8:20 A.M. EDT until September 5th at 5:35 A.M. EDT Mars enters this fixed fire sign. This planet does well in all the fire signs, due to its rulership of Aries. Mars rules the ego, and Leo rules the stage and acting. As such many of us will be acting out more than usual. The desire to express our inner self is strong and there may be opportunities for public displays. A bit of caution is called for, as it's very easy to overdo things and to act out in an aggressive or arrogant manner. But with a little self-awareness this can be a period of powerful expression and direct actions. When Mars was transiting Cancer there was an underlying emotional nature to much of our actions and ideas. Now it's all about making a statement and pushing out your agenda.

THE SUN SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Thursday July 20th at 8:24 P.M. EDT this potentially explosive aspect completes just a few days after Mars has squared Uranus. This is the end of the lunar cycle, and the energy level is usually lower. That may work to our advantage and help quell the stress and angst these squares to Uranus usually produce. Use caution today and pay attention to what you're doing and to your surroundings. It's easy to get angry or act in a pushy and arrogant way. With Mars just entering Leo today as well you must be aware of how you're presenting yourself.

THE SUN ENTERS LEO:

On Saturday July 22nd at 11:16 A.M. EDT we enter the fixed part of summer. Where July was all about family as the Sun traveled through Cancer, the next month is more about romance and playfulness. This is a good time to take a romantic trip or to hang with friends and explore the world. Leo rules the 5th house of children, and it really is one of the most youthful and childlike signs. Leos love to play and the more you remain active the more energy you will create. I always love the beach, but it seems to be most alluring when the Sun is traveling through Leo. The water in the Northeast is warmer, the sun is at a pleasant slant, and everyone seems to have finally relaxed enough to enjoy themselves. So should you.

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DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday July 23rd at 5:46 A.M. EDT at 0 degrees Leo 44 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:

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.

June 25th 2:44 P.M. – 6:06 P.M.

June 27th 5:12 P.M. – 8:41 P.M.

June 29th 4:34 P.M. – June 30th 3:03 A.M. ***Moon is void 11 hours

July 2nd 9:16 A.M. – 12:59 P.M.

July 4th 9:34 P.M. – July 5th 1:08 A.M.

July 7th 10:12 A.M. – 1:45 P.M.

June 9th 10:12 P.M. – July 10th 1:35 A.M.

July 12th 8:40 A.M. – 11:51 A.M.

July 14th 1:00 P.M. – 7:52 P.M. ***Moon is void 8 hours

July 16th 10:12 P.M. – July 17th 1:04 A.M.

July 19th 2:11 A.M. – 3:31 A.M.

July 21st 1:40 A.M. – 4:09 A.M.

July 23rd 2:05 A.M. – 4:34 A.M.

July 25th 5:22 A.M. – 6:32 A.M.

July 27th 2:31 A.M. – 11:37 A.M. ***Moon is void 9 hours

July 29th 5:30 P.M. – 8:23 P.M.

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