

MONTHLY SINCE 1999

ISSUE # 214

LIVING BY STARLIGHT

an Astrological Newsletter

May 2017

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

May has always been one of my favorite months. It's warm without roasting you, the days are long and pleasurable, and the earth gives forth its flowers and leaves and bushes of infinite colors and variations. It's an artist's delight, and since I can't paint I take my joy in viewing nature's palette. There's something sweet and innocent about spring with all the hope and expectation of summer, like a lover's kiss not yet delivered; anticipation without the rude awakening of a morning after. It's life renewed and anxious stirring at the very root of our being. Summer is wonderful in its unbridled strut like a teenager attacking each day with abandonment. But May is the quiet reserved whisper of what's to come. And I look forward to its tentative steps.

This month's New Moon is in Taurus, as I say below, this is the sign that is most concerned with values and finances. It's fitting that our president has chosen this time to unveil his budget and tax cuts aimed directly at the heart of the middle class.

I would like to pay less tax. I don't know anyone who has ever called the I.R.S. and said: You didn't charge me enough. But our economic system is very complex and intricate, and Mr. Trump's vague view of how things work will lead us off a cliff. His goal is and has always been to grab as much as possible and stuff it in his pockets. His plan, what little there is of one at the moment, is to favor corporations, the very wealthy, extinguish the inheritance tax and put the weight of excessive debt on the backs of the workers.

Many of my readers know that I have a long history of successfully predicting markets and economic movements. I often lecture on the subject, and include a PowerPoint presentation of how the DOW and the NYSE have reacted to various astrological configurations for more than a century. I have said that I expect the next **potential** crash to occur in 2019-20. I'll expand on this in a separate paper. But for now, let me just say that as the dominoes fall so goes the stock markets. If this budget, or anything resembling it, passes congress, we will begin to see the results in about two years when the effects of the revised tax codes actually being to infiltrate our financial system. The results will be devastating in the long run, though how the markets will react in the short term is a question. Over the next 10 years the very security of our system will be overwhelmed by a debt greater than anything we have ever seen. The rich will be rewarded and everyone else will pay the price.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Wednesday April 26th at 8:16 A.M. EDT at 6 degrees Taurus 27 minutes.

While each New Moon offers us a chance to begin a new cycle, each of the 12 has its own direction.

Because Taurus rules the 2nd house, its attention will be focused on issues involving that house. This month we will all be concerned with financial matters and values in general. The question is: what really is most important to you? In our capitalist society, we often are so concerned about money that the definition of the 2nd house has become very much a matter of material possessions and security. But that is a closed-minded approach that limits our understanding of life and of this house in an astrology chart. If someone offered you a small fortune, but to get it you would have to give up your health, your friends or your ambitions, would you take it? Is your integrity of sufficient importance that you would forego ill-gotten gains even if you were assured of anonymity? Or would your conscience bother you too much? We all judge our needs from different perspectives, and that is exactly what this New Moon will bring up. While most of us won't have to make such radical choices this month, it's important to remember that in some ways we do just that almost every day, though not usually with dire consequences. This period may be very important in world affairs, especially in financial matters. For example, the president is about to propose his budget, which is sure to incite serious debate and opposition. What's more important to the society? Is it tax cuts that may put some cash in our pockets, or is it the funding of programs you may deem vital to the health and wellbeing of the culture? Is it reducing spending to lower our national debt, or securing our position in certain world activities? Basically, the question has to do with short term versus long term results. This is an oversimplification of a very complex discussion, but the point is that in the end everything does come down to what we most value and believe will help in the long run, as individuals and as the collective. The actions of the stock markets during the coming weeks will say some very important things about the direction we are heading.

VENUS ENTERS ARIES:

On Friday April 28th at 9:13 A.M. EDT until June 6th at 3:27 A.M. EDT the goddess of love enters this Mars ruled sign. There will be a more assertive attitude towards relationships and some people will be downright aggressive. Try not to overstate your case. It may be easy to push someone away or scare them into inaction. Because of the openly direct approach many will display, it might be easier to engage in a new relationship or at least to express your desires. If you're normally very shy, this may help you make your feelings known. Venus can feel out of sorts in this male-dominant sign, but in some ways it can also fuse the gap that often exists between the sexes. We are all made up of male and female sides, and if your natal chart is overly receptive you may welcome this projected energy. Just use some caution when expressing yourself and try to be receptive to what others are saying. If not, you might inadvertently create strife and put that person on the defensive. This can be a very creative force as the artistic side of Venus gets a bump from this fire sign and brings you more energy to push into your creative projects.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS URANUS:

Also on Friday April 28th at 10:50 A.M. EDT a great deal of nervous energy will be projected out. Things

are coming at a fast and furious pace and it will be difficult to keep up with everything. This is an electric aspect that can result in brilliant ideas, but only if it is focused. Mercury is the lower octave of the mental energy, while Uranus is the higher octave. When combined and used in a proper way it can open the consciousness to new ways of looking at the world and your issues. Big concepts can be translated into more useful and functional ideas. But it is also easy to be overwhelmed by the number of thoughts that are emitted. It's best to try and deal with one thing at a time. There is a tendency to speak without thinking things through, which can often result in arguments or hurt feelings. Pay attention to what you're saying, and try not to take what others say too much to heart. Under this aspect, you can expect to hear some unexpected things. Some violent or surprising world events may take place. This is a potentially dangerous transit, especially while traveling, so caution is certainly called for. But with a little forethought and a keen eye on the here and now you can avoid most problems. Communication and travel will be the focal point and may cause difficulties, so pay attention and use some caution.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Wednesday May 3rd 12:33 P.M. EDT this winged mischievous god begins his forward run. Because this takes place in impatient Aries you can expect a few days of incredibly fast moving communications and events. People will talk without thinking and you can expect to hear a harsh and unyielding tone. We will all be racing to catch up after three weeks of the retrograde, and it will be easy to stumble over your feet. Use some caution. Whenever this planet changes direction there is a period of adjustment, and the potential for accidents and misunderstandings. For a few days, you should pay close attention to all transactions and communications. Just because Mercury has gone direct doesn't mean that everything will suddenly be clear or easily understood. There is a "shadow phase" of the retrograde that should be respected, and close scrutiny should be used in all business and financial matters. While it should be safe to sign those important documents that you've been waiting for, it's still wise to double check them carefully and perhaps have someone else look them over as well. Accidents and mistakes are very common in the few days after Mercury changes direction in either way.

THE SUN SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

Also on Wednesday May 3rd at 8:51 P.M. EDT this subtle aspect will complete. This isn't one of those transits that smack you over the head. It will be a subdued and gentle reminder of the ethereal and spiritual side of life. Because it comes right after Mercury goes direct some may be faced with questions about their life direction and purpose. Generally, this sextile is good for artists of all sorts. It aims the focus on the creative side of the brain and can bring up some new ideas, give rise to an artistic venture, or simulate your desire to help others. All are positive ways of expressing this energy, so try to find a useful way of doing so.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Tuesday May 9th at 2:21 P.M. EDT this positive trine presents itself. This is a good day for getting down to the nitty gritty and delving deeply into any subject that has eluded your understanding. In relationships, there will be a strong desire to uncover the truth and find the meaning behind the actions. But because this is a trine you should be able to do so without stirring up too much opposition. This is a good

day for important conversations and for exposing any hidden agendas or misunderstandings. With Mercury about to conjunct Uranus early tomorrow morning our thoughts and tongues will be moving at an accelerated pace. So try to use this aspect in preparation and get a handle on exactly what is being said so you don't jump to wrong conclusions.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Wednesday May 10th at 1:19 A.M. EDT this potentially explosive aspect returns. We experienced this transit on April 28th, and because of the recent reversal of direction for Mercury it now comes back again, and much of the same holds true. Mercury is now direct, while it was retrograde on the last pass, which implies that it will be more forceful and create events in the outer world more than in our consciousness. What I said about this aspect last week is pretty much true today as well.

A great deal of nervous energy will be projected out. Things are coming at a fast and furious pace and it will be difficult to keep up with everything. This is an electric aspect that can result in brilliant ideas, but only if it is focused. Mercury is the lower octave of the mental energy, while Uranus is the higher octave. When combined and used in a proper way it can open the consciousness to new ways of looking at the world and your issues. Big concepts can be translated into more useful and functional ideas. But it is also easy to be overwhelmed by the number of thoughts that are emitted. It's best to try and deal with one thing at a time. There is a tendency to speak without thinking things through, which can often result in arguments or hurt feelings. Pay attention to what you're saying, and try not to take what others say too much to heart. Under this aspect, you can expect to hear some unexpected things. Some violent or surprising world events may take place. This is a potentially dangerous transit, especially while traveling, so caution is certainly called for. But with a little forethought and a keen eye on the here and now you can avoid most problems. Communication and travel will be the focal point and may cause difficulties, so pay attention and use some caution.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday May 10th at 5:42 P.M. EDT at 20 degrees Scorpio 24 minutes. All Full Moons should be respected, and though most pass without major problems, some caution is called for at each lunar peak. The Scorpio Full Moon has the potential to create some problems especially if you don't bring things out into the open. It is vital that you see what's happening in the light of day because the shadows will hide much of what you are dealing with. Scorpio and its ruler, Pluto has much to do with the removal of waste and the regenerative process. This sign has a strong desire to rejuvenate and clear out what is no longer useful. The problem is that at times we can overdo this and eliminate what is still valid. Pay attention to your circumstances. If you're not sure that a relationship, job or other issue is complete you should probably leave your final decision for another time when the energy isn't at its peak. Feelings will be severe and our reaction to what someone says or does may be over the top. In world events this aspect can bring something to a head that may result in a conflict or even violent reaction. With Mars about to square Neptune it's important to be as clear headed and aware as possible so misunderstandings don't prevail. But if something has become untenable and no longer necessary, either in

your personal life or in society, this may very well clean out the situation and leave you room for new and important growth.

MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday May 11th at 1:53 P.M. EDT this difficult aspect completes. Mars represents the power and energy around and within us. Neptune tends to dissipate whatever it comes in contact with. The combination is difficult and can result in low vitality and discouragement. This may be a day when we are all feeling a little rundown and out of sorts. It's a time to rest and rejuvenate, not a great day for overly exertive tasks. You may not have the oomph necessary to complete what you begin. Misunderstandings are common with this combination. The desire Mars has to act and create is severely depleted by Neptune. Therefore, caution and restraint are called for. Acting out in an aggressive way while Neptune is active will only exacerbate any situation. Try to have patience and you will find that in a day or so your energy level is back, and so is your common sense.

MERCURY TRINES SATURN:

Also on Thursday May 11th at 4:15 P.M. EDT our thoughts will be focused and geared towards responsibility and obligations. This is a day to put your desk in order and clean up any unfinished business. Because we are also experiencing Mars square Neptune today it may be hard to keep that focus and move your work forward. If so, I suggest that you deal with the mundane issues and put things in order so that once the Neptune energy dissipates you can get back to work and stay the course.

MARS TRINES JUPITER:

On Friday May 12th at 6:19 A.M. EDT this very positive and social aspect will feel much different than yesterday's Mars square Neptune. Today egos will be strong and assertive, and many of us will feel more like chatting and interacting. If something went amiss in the past few days, this may be a good time to clarify things and smooth over any ruffled feathers. Just be careful not to act too arrogantly. It's easy for any combination of Mars and Jupiter to be pushy and overly assertive.

MERCURY ENTERS TAURUS:

On Tuesday May 16th at 12:07 A.M. EDT Mercury comes back into Taurus. This can be a stubborn sign without the elasticity or assertiveness of Aries. It's difficult to change your mind, or someone else's, so don't look for reversals or too much compromise. You may not get it. Try to stay open-minded and flexible, although that is not the basic nature of this energy. There is a stable and focused side to this placement, and it's very good for working long hours and aiming your mental attention where it will do you the most good. But the unbending attitude that Taurus often displays can make you too single-minded. Get your work done and try to finish up any projects that have been lingering. But then you'd be wise to allow someone you trust to look it over. Pay attention to any critiques offered, and try to keep an open mind.

SATURN TRINES URANUS:

On Friday May 19th at 2:19 A.M. EDT this very valuable trine completes for the 2nd time. It will return November 11th (Veteran's Day) for the final pass. This has been one of the more positive underlying aspects that has been holding things together and actually helping to keep our society on a more even keel. Politically it has helped center American and foreign decisions, and until the last pass of it at the end of the year, we may see the tug-of-war within our system create a more balanced approach. What happens after this finally completes? Who knows? At that point, we may have to deal with more drastic and combative choices. But for now, the desire for radical change implied by Uranus, and the need for a strong status quo and foundation, as represented by Saturn, are working together to shore up our bottom line. This is why the stock markets have been rather secure, while not being exactly explosive in either direction.

VENUS OPPOSES JUPITER:

Also on Friday May 19th at 10:12 A.M. EDT this wonderfully sociable and enjoyable opposition will make most of us feel good and optimistic. This is a terrific day for any number of actions. It's a good time to express any romantic feelings. Some people may meet someone new, or expand an existing relationship. Travel is favored, even a short trip to the country. The only word of warning is that there is a tendency to overindulge in food, drink and other worldly pleasures. Be careful what you eat. Sugars of all sorts in particular are easy to overdo. Plan a social get together either the night before, or today. It should be very enjoyable and people will interact openly.

THE SUN ENTERS GEMINI:

On Saturday May 20th at 4:31 P.M. EDT we enter the mutable third of spring. This is when the days begin to feel more and more like summer, though not quite there yet. Gemini is all about relationships and communications. It's a good time to express your thoughts and feelings, and reach out to someone. This is a good placement for all writers and public speakers. There's a strong need to say what's on your mind, so don't be afraid to do so. While we don't usually think of Gemini as a romantic sign (that distinction is often left to Libra and possibly the water signs) I believe that communication is one of the foundations of all relationships, including love affairs. And the 3rd house (Gemini's domain) has much to do with how we interact and the close connection we make to our significant other. If you're interested in someone, talk to them. Let them know how you feel, and see if you have common interests and values. Those are often the most important questions when trying to find a mate.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Thursday May 25th at 12:19 P.M. EDT this somewhat difficult aspect appears right on the Dark of the Moon. If there's a problem in a relationship it will become obvious today. Some connections may end altogether as we prepare for the next new lunar cycle. But only those that are no longer valid. This will not harm a healthy relationship, but it might bring up some issues that haven't been dealt with and need to be brought out into the light. Pluto demands that we look at things realistically and not try to hide them from ourselves. If something is wrong with one of your connections, romantic, business or friendship, you will know it.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Thursday May 25th at 3:44 P.M. EDT at 4 degrees Gemini 47 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.

April 27th 9:18 P.M. – 9:39 P.M.

April 29th 5:28 P.M. – 9:48 P.M.

May 1st 4:23 P.M. – May 2nd 12:12 A.M. ***Moon is void 8 hours

May 4th 12:35 A.M. – 5:47 A.M.

May 6th 8:42 A.M. – 2:20 P.M.

May 8th 6:59 P.M. – May 9th 1:01 A.M. ***Moon is void 6 hours

May 10th 5:42 P.M. – May 11th 12:59 P.M. ***Moon is void 19 hours

May 13th 10:14 P.M. – May 14th 1:37 A.M.

May 16th 6:22 A.M. – 1:50 P.M. ***Moon is void 6 hours

May 18th 8:33 P.M. – 11:52 P.M.

May 20th 11:39 P.M. – May 21st 6:11 A.M. ***Moon is void 6 hours

May 23rd 2:59 A.M. – 8:33 A.M.

May 24th 3:08 P.M. – May 25th 8:15 A.M. ***Moon is void 17 hours

May 27th 2:18 A.M. – 7:24 A.M.

May 29th 2:59 A.M. – 8:12 A.M.

May 31st 7:14 A.M. – 12:16 P.M.

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