

MONTHLY SINCE 1999

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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

March - April 2018

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

My financial and political update is being completed and will be sent out separately in a few days. Please keep your eyes open for it. My desire is to write more comprehensive examinations, which take more time. Mitch.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Saturday March 17th at 9:12 A.M. EDT at 26 degrees Pisces 53 minutes and it's a void of course Moon. This is the last New Moon before the celestial New Year and its energy is about completions and endings. If something important is unfinished, this is the time when you may feel a strong need to complete it. One of astrology's most useful tools is its ability to help us find the proper time to engage in our activities and projects. We astrologers are often called upon to help our clients choose the right moment for many of life's most important issues. Whether it's when to buy a house, take a new job, enter into a contract, or have an operation, the most vital of life's circumstances must be entered into at the proper time for the best results. And that's what we do. We try to find the proper time to enact whatever the situation demands in the most proactive way. To quote Ecclesiastes and the Byrds (for my younger readers, the Byrds were a rock 'n roll group from the 60's):

*To everything there is a season
And a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to be born a time to die
A time to plant a time to reap
A time to kill a time to heal
A time to laugh a time to weep
A time to build up a time to break down
A time to dance a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together*

If we don't swim against the current, life is that much easier. While all New Moons represent an opportunity to begin a new, they each have their own energy and atmosphere. Pisces, as I said, is all about completions and tying up loose ends. It's the end of winter in preparation for the start of a new solar cycle,

and that's how we can best use this period.

Pisces is also very much about service, and the month ahead will have a lot of that influence. Be charitable with your time, your resources and your affections. People need different things from others at various times. Sometimes it's a hot meal or a life-saving loan. Sometimes it's a warm hug and a knowing nod without recrimination or judgment. Open your heart and give the gifts that matter most. You will be rewarded many times over for your generosity of spirit in ways that you may not even notice. But trust me, the universe does not forget.

MARS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Saturday March 17th at 12:41 P.M. EDT until May 16th at 12:55 A.M. EDT Mars enters the sign of its exultation. This surprises some astrology students who believe that the combination of Mars and Saturn (ruler of Capricorn) must surely represent a restrictive energy that leads to frustration. While it is true that a combination of these two planets either in a natal chart or by transit *can* be difficult and is somewhat limiting, when they are used together in a sincere and careful manner you can accomplish much, as the careful Saturn helps us focus that Mars energy where it can do the most good. The limitations it creates are there to ensure that you don't make mistakes or rush to judgment. Expect many people to be somewhat reticent during this period, and don't overextend yourself or you will find that you don't have enough oomph to complete what you have taken on. Romance may be restricted, as there will not be the outgoing forcefulness we usually can expect. But it may bring a long term relationship that has staying power. It may not be as exciting or adventurous as some, but then it probably won't fizzle out in a few weeks. There's give and take in all things. Finding the balance is the key to a successful life.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:

On Tuesday March 20th at 12:02 A.M. this easy-going transit will make communications enjoyable and pleasant. This isn't a very powerful aspect, and it may pass without much notice, but it does allow for gentle conversation. It completes early in the morning, so you may find the people hanging out in bars Monday night are conversing more than usual at such a late hour. This is a good transit for any pleasant interaction. We will all enjoy music, theatre, movies and all forms of entertainment, so try to engage in something pleasing.

THE SUN ENTERS ARIES: HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Also, on Tuesday March 20th at 12:16 P.M. EDT the Sun begins its journey through the zodiac anew. This is when I and many astrologers celebrate what we believe is the real New Year. This is a time for new beginnings and for preparing your agenda for the coming year. We are in a very Aries period with Mercury, Venus and Uranus already in this fire sign. People are assertive and at times can unconsciously slip over into an aggressive attitude, so be careful. Aries has little forethought and tends to act or speak without filters. I always say that an Aries will jump off the diving board and on the way down see if there is water. Try not to act that way. It can be dangerous, especially from a high diving board. This is a good season for initiating any new projects or ideas. Just don't overstate your case or you may push some people away.

The underlying aggressiveness this sign can create requires your attention.

Because we are still in the Pisces New Moon cycle, you may find that projects seem to be somewhat thwarted or delayed until the next New Moon in Aries on April 15th when that lunar placement helps push the energy into new beginnings. Begin your preparations now but hold off initiating a new start until the 15th when the Sun and the Moon (father and mother) coordinate in a combined effort.

MERCURY RETROGRADES:

On Thursday March 22nd at 8:19 P.M. EDT until Sunday April 15th at 5:21 A.M. EDT the fun begins anew. This retrograde is in the sign of Aries and we can expect a lot of repressed energy, both mentally and physically. When Mercury transits Aries there isn't a lot of subtlety in communications. People tend to say exactly what's on their mind with little regard for the other person's reaction. While in retrograde this will continue, but with even less attention to what the other person thinks. Obviously it would be wise to slow that tongue down and think before you speak. We think of retrograde Mercury as a somewhat reticent and repressed communicator, but that's really not true at all. While there often are delays and at times an inability to express oneself while Mercury is running backwards, most communication comes from the unconscious and can be spewed out without forethought. In Aries this will be even more obvious and it would behoove us to take precautions. Arguments are certainly possible, and misunderstandings will be frequent. Remember, you cannot unsay something. Once it's out of your mouth it's out there. Caution is called for in all communications, as well as in travel, signing documents and all Mercury ruled issues. Don't sign important contracts, buy a new car, computer, cell phone or home, and wait to initiate new projects. This is a good time for important conversations that can be difficult or dicey. You may be able to reach a deeper understanding and face a hard reality that you would normally be able to circumvent. If you do go into a meeting of the minds now, expect to be confronted by the cold wind of truth.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:

On Friday March 23rd at 7:13 P.M. EDT we will all look at our relationships with a critical eye. This can be a difficult square and people can be obsessive and unyielding. If there are problems in a relationship they may come out now and you may be forced to deal with them. Pluto has a strong desire to uncover whatever is going on underneath the surface. As such it will react upon whatever planet it is aspecting. In this case it's Venus, ruler of intimate connections and financial matters. You need to be careful with both. Under this influence you could say something that has hidden meaning and stir up all sorts of problems. You should also be careful with your finances. Unexpected expenditures are common. We could see a serious drop in the equities leading up to this aspect. But even if the stocks remain stable, the underlying problems in our collective and personal financial situations will become more obvious.

THE SUN SQUARES MARS:

On Saturday March 24th at 12:08 P.M. EDT this intense and powerful aspect will complete. It requires much attention and care, as this square will pit the ego against the will. This can be a feisty and at times a dangerous aspect of violent force that should be respected. Be careful how you interact with others. Most

people will be feeling this and it can easily produce frustration or anger. If you're feeling that way you must be aware and find ways to release any pent up anger. Under this influence physical exercise is the best way to get the excessive power out of you. Stay busy and find ways to project this and you will find that it is a very productive day. But if you ignore it you could find yourself in arguments or disagreements. Even a minor ailment or accident is possible, but only if it sets off your chart. If someone is looking for a fight, don't take the bait. While you may feel like defending your position or your honor, it would probably be best to walk away with a shrug, if you can.

VENUS CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Wednesday March 28th at 8:46 P.M. EDT we will all be seeking something new and exciting. Relationships may be upended, and any new connections that begin now should be approached with care. While you may be infatuated with some new person, idea or project, you must allow some time to pass before committing too much. With Uranus it can be easy come, easy go and you may find that there is no foundation beneath the situation. This is especially true in relationships. With Uranus things change rapidly and radically, so give any new contact time to prove it has staying power.

THE SUN SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday March 29th at 10:16 A.M. EDT this difficult aspect completes. This is a limiting and at time frustrating transit that can put many people on the defensive. If you lower your expectations, you can use this quite well. But if you expect to be able to accomplish a lot of things that require energy you may be disappointed. This is a low energy aspect and many of us will feel it. Just don't push against the stream. You can get some things done very successfully, and you will be careful and pay attention to detail. But you probably won't be able to do everything that you hope to. Pick and choose the most important issues and handle them first. Then if you still have energy left over you can aim your attention to something else. Many people will be tired or frustrated, so don't take their reaction personally.

VENUS ENTERS TAURUS:

On Saturday March 31st at 12:54 A.M. EDT until April 24th at 12:40 P.M. EDT Venus enters one of the signs it rules. This is a very loyal and supportive sign, though it can be quite stubborn and unbending. Relationships will be a main focus for the next few weeks. Any new relationship that begins with this placement will tend to show that loyalty and may very well have a strong foundation. Of course, there are many issues that will go into that, not just the placement of Venus. But this planet has much to do with how we define our intimate connections. Security and stability are key words for Taurus. In many things we get what we give, so if you're able and willing to offer a sincere and earnest structure you may find the relationship you need. Because Taurus and Venus also rule money and values this will be a time when these issues are scrutinized and any area where a realistic attitude is lacking will become obvious. The financial markets will continue to show some instability and volatility over the coming month. This is because of the unstable situation in Washington and some of the policies this administration is implementing.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Saturday March 31st at 8:37 A.M. EDT at 10 degrees Libra 45 minutes. This is the other sign that Venus rules, and it will amplify that sense of how important stability is for personal relationships. Any issues that are unresolved in a close one-on-one contact will come to the surface and have to be dealt with. This can either increase the strength of a relationship pushing it to the next level of intimacy, or it can expose the cracks and differences between the two people involved and force a confrontation. Libra is often misrepresented as a passive energy. It isn't. It's a passive-aggressive force that may circumvent normal channels but will eventually find a way to achieve what it needs. This Full Moon probably won't be too aggressive, but it may still result in some serious changes in how we interact. If there is a problem in a connection with another you would be wise to admit it and face the issues directly rather than trying to avoid them.

MERCURY CONJUNCT THE SUN:

On Sunday April 1st at 1:53 P.M. EDT there will be a very willful atmosphere. If this is handled properly it can be a day of good communication and a positive exchange of ideas. There will be a lot of energy for writing, talking or thinking, and that can lead to a desire for productive interaction. But keep in mind that this combination tends to resist compromise and can make people unbending and dogged. It's important to keep an open mind and not allow a stubborn attitude to prevent communication. If you can do that, you should be able to discuss things in a direct and honest fashion. Travel is favored, especially short trips, so try to take a drive in the country, or even a long walk. It may clear your head and help you think things through.

MARS CONJUNCTS SATURN:

On Monday April 2nd at 11:44 A.M. EDT this difficult combination comes along. While Mars is exalted in Saturn ruled Capricorn, it still doesn't like the limitations that this sign demands. We are used to having an energy output that is constant and in our control, and most people expect a certain amount of force to draw upon. But with Saturn's influence that energy level will be restricted and you may find that there is an underlying tiredness and a lack of enthusiasm. With most Saturn transits my advice is to lower your expectations. If you don't expect too much you can work within the resources that are offered. Then if you find there is an excess of power you can use it. But if you go into a situation with an unrealistic anticipation you may not be able to complete all of the projects and commitments you have made. This is a frustrating and at times annoying aspect and you may find that people have a short fuse for a day or two. It's not a good time for senseless arguments or for pushing someone too hard. They may respond in an inappropriately forceful manner as a result of pent up anger. If you use this properly you can approach your work with a clear and focused attitude and move slowly and carefully towards your goals. You can get a lot of work done under this energy, and will be less likely to make mistakes. Just don't expect to have a whole lot of oomph.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Wednesday April 4th at 3:06 A.M. EDT this forceful aspect will complete early in the morning setting

up the atmosphere for the day. Because of the Mars-Saturn conjunct Mercury will square Saturn tomorrow. For today you need to pay attention to how you communicate. This is a very argumentative aspect and many people will be looking for a fight. Caution is called for in all communications and in travel. It's very easy to set someone off. If you are holding in any anger you must get in touch with it and find a way to release it. Exercise may help, but this is primarily a mental transit and staying busy with intellectual work will be better. You might inadvertently say something innocently to someone while in line at Starbucks only to be forcefully reproached. Try not to take the bait in any conversation unless you really feel it's important enough to respond. If you let things go and just keep a sense of humor you will be able to sidestep a lot of trouble.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Thursday April 5th at 4:22 A.M. EDT this more repressive side of the Mars-Saturn energy will prevail. Today you may find it difficult to express yourself and to say what's on your mind. If you do feel that way, you're better off just letting things go until this passes. This can be a day of stilted mental energy and it can be hard to find the right words. Don't let your expectations surpass your energy level. It is a good aspect for dealing with details, and if you have something that needs to be examined you will be quite able to do so with care. But it's a limiting transit for interaction with others. Travel may also be more problematic than usual. This completes early in the morning, so its effects will be felt most powerfully the night before.

VENUS TRINES SATURN:

On Saturday April 7th at 9:36 A.M. EDT we will all be more realistic about our relationships. This is a positive trine, but it's still a combination of fun-loving Venus and restrictive Saturn. This is a good day to examine your closest connections and test whether they are serving your needs. You can do so without being too critical and nit-picking, but you will still be very honest about things.

THE SUN SQUARES PLUTO:

On Wednesday April 11th at 12:51 A.M. EDT this very forceful energy will create a powerful atmosphere when people will not accept superficial answers. If you're ready to deal with something on a deep level, then use this to face the situation. But if you don't want to be confronted by something you had hoped would just fade away, this is not the time to get into a conversation with anyone who may bring it up. Even a casual conversation could take a decidedly serious turn, so be aware. There will be a compulsive attitude about many things. Be careful not to be overly obsessive. It may be difficult to let go of some issues, and you may find yourself chasing your tail. If you are able to take things in stride this can be a very good day for uncovering the truth. But if you're trying to hide from the reality of a situation you will probably be unpleasantly surprised when something comes to the surface. You cannot hide under Pluto energy. But it doesn't have to be negative or harmful. It's just direct and honest.

VENUS TRINES MARS:

Also, on Wednesday April 11th at 2:02 A.M. EDT the male and female planets are in harmony. This is

usually a good time to interact with the opposite sex. It doesn't imply that you will meet the love of your life, but you should find it easy to relate to each other. This completes early in the morning, so it will be most effective on Tuesday evening. This can be a very creative day and if you're working on an artistic project you may find that the wind is at your back. Focus your attention on art, music, and relationships and you will use this to your best advantage.

JUPITER SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Saturday April 14th at 6:28 A.M. EDT this very positive sextile completes. We had this transit on January 15th and it will return September 12th. This is one of the aspects that are holding up this stock market. We are most definitely heading towards a bear market and eventually a crash. But it won't happen right now. Pluto rules all trading accounts. Jupiter is the optimistic undercurrent. When they are in positive aspect the markets tend to shrug off all negative news. But there are limits to what it can do. Because this will return in the fall there will continue to be this underlying support. But as we head into more dangerous and powerful aspects, and as Jupiter moves closer to its entrance into Capricorn and its eventual conjunct to Pluto, we will see the underbelly of our financial markets start to fray. This is a good day for digging into any hidden agendas. Pluto wants to uncover whatever is going on under the surface, and the Jupiter energy will make us more accepting to the truth.

MERCURY GOES DIRECT:

On Sunday April 15th at 5:21 A.M. EDT right before the New Moon the winged god finally turns around. We will see a lot of confusion for a few days leading up to this. Usually that's the case when Mercury changes direction, but it will be even more obvious now as it is transiting Aries and turning around just at the end of a lunar cycle. Expect things to begin moving at a seriously quick pace as we reach the New Moon. Pay attention to what you're doing. This is not a good time to run blindly or act in an impulsive manner, although that is exactly what many will do. Caution is always called for when Mercury goes direct, but more so now than usual, so use care and look before you leap. As always, be careful for a few days. Accidents and misunderstandings are common, and some secrets will be revealed. If you keep an open mind and take the time to double check everything you can avoid most complications. I would not rush to judgment but wait until a few days after the New Moon when Mercury regains its footing before making any permanent decisions.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Sunday April 15th at 9:57 P.M. EDT at 26 degrees Aries 02 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:

March 17th 9:12 A.M. – 2:57 P.M.

March 19th 3:29 P.M. – 9:07 P.M.

March 21st 1:21 P.M. – March 22nd 1:30 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

March 23rd 11:52 P.M. – March 24th 4:53 A.M.

March 26th 2:58 A.M. – 7:45 A.M.

March 28th 5:54 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

March 30th 12:59 A.M. – 1:52 P.M. ***Moon is void 13 hours

April 1st 2:29 P.M. – 6:57 P.M.

April 3rd 12:06 P.M. – April 4th 2:55 A.M.

April 6th 9:36 A.M. – 2:01 P.M.

April 8th 10:40 P.M. – April 9th 2:50 A.M.

April 11th 10:55 A.M. – 2:40 P.M.

April 13th 7:27 A.M. – 11:26 P.M. ***Moon is void 16 hours

April 16th 1:59 A.M. – 4:51 A.M.

April 17th 6:05 P.M. – April 18th 8:02 A.M. ***Moon is void 14 hours

April 20th 8:05 A.M. – 10:26 A.M.

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