

MONTHLY SINCE 1999
ISSUE # 223

LIVING BY STARLIGHT **an Astrological Newsletter**

February 2018

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:

This month, I have decided to separate my author's notes from the body of my newsletter. [Click here to read](#)

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Tuesday January 16th at 9:17 P.M. EST at 26 degrees Capricorn 54 minutes. Every year we usually experience the Capricorn New Moon sometime in January. It's always a moment of sobriety and a time when we view our lives in a clear and unfiltered manner. It's the time when the credit card bills begin to arrive reminding us of the perhaps frivolous manner in which we spent while the Sun was in expansive and uncontrolled Sagittarius. This lunar cycle is when much of the northern hemisphere is inundated by winter's wrath and many of us are locked inside gazing out at the frozen tundra often internalizing and examining ourselves and our choices more honestly. This is a time of reflection and judgment that students of astrology recognize as one of Capricorn's more obvious traits. We should use this time to put our lives in order, clean up any unfinished business and make plans for the future. This is true every January. But this year is different.

We are at the beginning of the "Age of Capricorn" a period that will be seen in historic perspective as the time when humanity had to make some of its most important decisions regarding our future. Currently the Sun, Moon, Venus, Saturn and Pluto are all in this cardinal earth sign, stimulating our approach to a reality-oriented perspective that cannot be overstated. While the quick moving planets have a day-to-day effect on our philosophy and our actions, the main focus of this energy are Saturn and Pluto, which will conjoin in 2019 & 2020, when they will be joined by Mars and Jupiter to create a massive buildup of force. I've lectured and written extensively about this coming period and will continue to do so over the next 2 years.

There will be a severe and powerful reckoning over the next few years that will have a major effect on the direction our society takes. Whatever your political views are it's difficult not to recognize the chaos taking place in Washington, and as a result around the globe. The normal order of things has been seriously upset. While this may not be a bad thing under the proper circumstances, (sometimes we need to dislodge outmoded attitudes) Capricorn loathes unpredictability and any situation that lacks a strong foundation. As

such, the deeper we move into this period the stronger the pull from the collective will be to strengthen our supportive structures and rebalance what is faltering. This will take shape in several areas and culminate in the 2018 mid-term elections that will prove to be the most important in a century. I expect turnout to be much higher than usual, and the shift of power that often occurs when one party has so much control will tilt the levers back towards Democrats and the center.

The recent events surrounding Mr. Trump and the unflinching power struggles in D.C. are pushing us towards a climax that will thrust our nation towards the inevitable battle. Long before he won the office I've been saying the Trump's chart shows a physical problem with his circulatory system that will lead to a major health issue in the coming months. It may be a heart attack, stroke or other aneurism. There is a blockage in his system that will become obvious fairly soon.

VENUS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Wednesday January 17th at 8:44 P.M. EST until February 10th at 6:20 P.M. EST the goddess of love and money enters this most erratic of signs. Romance will be unpredictable (a word astrologers hate) and it's important to keep an open mind. People will be easily bored. If you can, try to view relationships from a different perspective. While Venus is traveling in this sign you can expect romance to be a little weird. Keep things exciting and adventurous in whatever way you feel comfortable. If you allow it to become dull and mundane you may be unpleasantly surprised by the way someone reacts. We all will be seeking different input, as long as there is something stimulating and new it should work out okay.

Financial matters will also begin to seem unsettled. There is a tendency to take more risks and act a bit irrationally with money. After weeks of traveling through stogy old Capricorn the purse strings may loosen. That's fine as long as you keep an eye on the bottom line. Indulge in some exciting purchases, but don't overdo it. With all the other planets that are still transiting Capricorn you could easily find yourself short and unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

MERCURY SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

On Friday January 19th at 8:08 P.M. EST this creative sextile will complete. This isn't a very powerful transit, and it may pass without much notice. It's a good energy for artists, writers and anyone who delves in the spiritual side of life. This morning is a good time to express your feelings, write a poem or in any way reach into the ethereal. The Sun is about to enter Aquarius later today, so having an open mind will be a very positive approach.

THE SUN ENTERS AQUARIUS:

Also on Friday January 19th at 10:10 P.M. EST until Friday February 18th at 12:18 P.M. EST we enter the fixed part of winter. The next month will see a lot of activity in the weather patterns as well as in world events. While the Sun was in Capricorn there was a solidity and structure to how we went about pursuing actions in business, politics and other areas. But now some of that structure will begin to dissipate and we may see some very upsetting events take place. Venus is already in this sign, and Mercury will enter on

January 31st. The underlying attitude of the world is going through changes that will become more obvious in the coming days. Expect the unexpected. The one world astrologers hate more than any other is *unpredictable*. Yet that is exactly the word most often used to describe the energy of the planet Uranus, and Aquarius, the sign it rules. What's most interesting is that the study of astrology is said to be ruled by this sign. Hmm... Keep your eyes open and try not to be too stubborn. If something needs to change, let it do so.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Wednesday January 24th at 3:47 P.M. EST this powerful and demanding aspect will make compromise difficult to find. Many people will be compulsive and argumentative, and it may be hard to smooth over some issues. There is a strong desire to get to the bottom of things, and if you're ready to tackle a subject to its fullest, this will help you do so. But if you just wish to have a pleasant chat, either make sure you stick to issues that you both agree on or wait until this passes before attempting to change someone's mind.

MERCURY SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Thursday January 25th at 6:28 A.M. EST our thoughts and communications will be moving at an accelerated pace. This is an optimistic and outgoing transit that favors travel, education and all form of communication. It completes early in the morning, so try to make use of it. It's a good energy under which to work through complicated or convoluted issues. The mind is moving quickly and most of us will be open to new ideas and ways of looking at old problems.

MARS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Friday January 26th at 7:57 A.M. EST until March 17th at 12:41 P.M. EST Mars travels through this expansive planet. This is a positive aspect, for the most part. It's usually a time of optimism and far-sightedness, and there is a strong urge to move projects forward forcefully. But it does come with a word of warning. Mars represents the ego. It's that part of us all that tends to be aggressive and push the envelope as much as possible. Sagittarius is the sign of expansion and uninhibited growth. Any planet that transits through this sign will be apt to reach out as far as possible and ignore boundaries and limitations. This combination can easily result in overreaching and destroying borders and restrictions that are necessary to ensure stability. What sometimes happens when these two energies intertwine is that there is much action and motion that appears to be progressive and positive while the aspect is occurring. But then once it completes we are left with a chaotic mess trying to restructure the foundation and margins that hold the system intact. In the collective and in our personal lives it's important to keep this in mind when making plans or interacting with others. You should certainly look for growth and expansion and move forward with confidence. But you also must keep a realistic approach, so you don't erase the lines that define our structure. Remember, all aspects, whether they are considered easy or hard, represent a challenge of balance. How well we handle that test will decide the outcome of the aspect.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

On Sunday January 28th at 2:08 A.M. EST this harsh and at times dangerous transit will complete. This is a moment when everything becomes electric and the possibility of a “short-circuit” is very possible. People will be nervous leading up to this, so use caution especially the night before. Thoughts, ideas and words will come at a very fast pace. Arguments are common. Don't overreact to what someone says. It could easily be a result of the extreme energy that is being emitted and have nothing to do with you. Unnecessary disagreements can lead to serious reactions that have long term effects, so sidestep any disputes that are frivolous. Accidents are also very possible, so caution is called for. Because it occurs early in the morning for most of us its effects may be limited, although this completes at 11:08 PM on the West Coast. If you're out, be careful. If you're driving, you must pay close attention to what's going on around you. Don't get behind the wheel of a car if you're tired, at all intoxicated or you left your glasses in the restaurant. It's just not a time to be careless.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Wednesday January 31st at 8:27 A.M. EST at 11 degrees Leo 37 minutes, and it's a Lunar Eclipse, a so-called Supermoon because of its placement so near the earth. Leo rules the stage and acting. You can expect people to be outgoing and quite boisterous for a few days surrounding this aspect. As with all Full Moons it would be wise to use some caution and not underestimate the potential for disruption. This is especially true of eclipses. I'm sure we all remember the Great American Eclipse this past summer. We are still feeling the effects of that aspect. In years past we've had some major snowstorms during this Full Moon that gave us quite a show. I don't know if we'll have another this year but keep an eye on the weather reports. And if there's a storm front moving your way I would be prepared for more than what is expected and try to stay out of harm's way.

This is a time to express yourself and show the world what you can do. Be confident and direct but try not to be overly aggressive. That could easily push others away and defeat the purpose of this energy. This Full Moon is preceded by Mercury square Uranus, a powerful and potentially dangerous aspect. It is followed by Mercury's entrance into Uranus-ruled Aquarius. This is a few days of erratic and explosive energy that demands our attention. We may see some conflicts in the world, and certainly there will be power struggles, but what else is new?

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

Also on Wednesday January 31st at 8:40 A.M. EST until February 17th at 11:28 P.M. EST Mercury enters the sign of its higher octave. For the next few weeks information will come to us in an erratic and accelerated pace. People will try to do many things at the same time. Depending upon how well they can multi-task they will either be successful or become overwhelmed. The best way to handle this is to put a strong foundation underneath your thinking and plans. While Aquarius does not usually like structure and prefers to work without restraints, outlining your objectives and preparing in advance will help offset any difficulties this transit may present. Many born with this placement show an uncommon mental capacity it the planet isn't afflicted. Genius is a word often associated with this sign. But I have found that is usually

true if there is a strong foundation within the chart to help guide that capacity. Otherwise it may manifest as bursts of inspiration without follow through. Take a little extra time to make sure the details of your scheme are correct and think before you speak. This can be a nervous energy and may be quite argumentative, so keep that in mind. But if you use this properly it can help you move your projects and creative works forward at a fast speed.

MERCURY SEXTILES MARS:

On Saturday February 3rd at 10:58 A.M. EST this mentally energetic transit will complete and there will be an acceleration of thoughts and communications. This is a positive transit that usually allows us all to think and speak in a direct and open manner without concern. You should be able to say what's on your mind and be assertive without being overly aggressive. But with Mercury having just entered Aquarius the combination could move things very rapidly and it may be difficult to keep everything in perspective. The main concern is taking on too many projects at the same time.

VENUS SQUARES JUPITER:

On Sunday February 4th at 1:07 A.M. EST this pleasant aspect will complete. This is a mixture of pleasure and excess that if kept in control can produce a very outgoing and sociable mood. Entertainment, companionship and all physical pleasures will be heightened. But there's a tendency to overindulge, and since this completes either late at night on the west coast or early in the morning on the east you should be aware that as it applies our regular common sense may not be activated. Eating or drinking too much is a strong possibility, so try to keep an eye on that.

VENUS SEXTILES URANUS:

On Tuesday February 6th at 8:36 P.M. EST we will all be seeking some new and exciting input. This is a positive sextile, so it should be easy to focus this desire into some interesting and creative prospects. Try to step outside your comfort zone and see what's out there. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you find. Romance will especially be more adventurous and you could find yourself attracted to someone different than usual. With Venus about to enter Pisces in a few days you should probably wait before committing too much to a new relationship. Explore and look for new people, but take the time to see if this is what's best for you. Sometimes a new affair that begins under such energy will open new doors of perception and bring you to an exciting and growth oriented path. But at times it will just create chaos and sidetrack you from your goals.

VENUS ENTERS PISCES:

On Saturday February 10th at 6:20 P.M. EST until March 6th at 6:46 P.M. EST a more compassionate side to romance will become prominent. This is a passive placement that can be more receptive than assertive. You may find that people aren't as direct as usual, and it may be up to you to make that first move. Even if someone seems a bit reticent it would be worthwhile to bring things out into the open and see just what that person has in mind. If they're being shy or unassuming perhaps a gentle push might help. There is a strong desire to help others and we will all get pleasure from our attempts at any form of

charity. If you can help out a friends, or aid a stranger it will not only be a good things spiritually but can actually be healthy to you physically and psychologically. This is a very good placement for all artists. It puts us in touch with our inner child and can help bypass boundaries that are more reality oriented. At times the creative process must flourish in the untethered ethereal world where rules and limitations aren't as conspicuous.

THE SUN SQUARES JUPITER:

Also on Saturday February 10th at 6:21 P.M. EST this square will blow many issues out of proportion. If you handle this well you can push the envelope and expand your perspective greatly. But it requires some common sense. We all have limitations that we place upon ourselves and our plans. These are used to help focus out energy and direct it where it will do the most good. But Jupiter has little regard for such boundaries. At times that's a good thing. We all need to break down the walls that restrict us. But this is a short-term transit and not a complete reversal of structure. If you aren't careful you may make some decisions or take on more than you can handle and find it difficult to deal with the results once this passes. With Mercury about to square Jupiter in a few days there is the chance that you will overdo things or make promises you cannot keep. Just try to be realistic about what you can and can't accomplish. If you are, this will be a very positive and productive week.

MERCURY SQUARES JUPITER:

On Tuesday February 13th at 5:39 P.M. EST our minds will move quickly and our ideas expand beyond the usual boundaries. As I said above with the Sun square Jupiter this is a week of opportunity and adventure, but it also requires keeping an eye on the foundation and structure we rely on to help us make the right choices. If you take on too much you will not be able to complete your obligations. But if you are careful and choose the projects and objectives you really want you should be able to make some positive and growth-oriented decisions. Because the Sun also sextiles Uranus today, and Mercury will sextile Uranus in a few days, this will continue to be a week of exciting and new input. Don't be afraid to explore. Just make sure you are standing on solid ground.

THE SUN SEXTILES URANUS:

Also on Tuesday February 13th at 9:22 P.M. EST this interesting aspect completes. It's a moment of sudden and unexpected opportunity that offers you a chance to get out of your rut. This is a day of innovation and a time to explore new ideas and seek unusual input. Try not to follow your usual path. Hey baby, take a walk on the wild side. You may be surprised at what you discover. It only lasts a day, so don't expect your life to change all that much. But sometimes, if you're in the right place at the right time, and this transit hits your chart just so, the universe can open doors and allow you to skip the line and walk right in. But if you don't go out and look for it there's little chance that you will strike that certain chord. Mercury will sextile Uranus in a few days and continue this exciting energy for a little while.

MERCURY SEXTILES URANUS:

th

On Thursday February 15 at 10:07 A.M. EST this mentally stimulating aspect comes on the Dark of the Moon. Think outside the box. Look over your plans and problems and try to see some new and adventurous ways of viewing things. This is a very positive transit that will open our consciousness and may bring us exciting information and a different perspective. This isn't powerful enough to alter our society, nor will it change your life in fundamental ways. But it may allow you to express yourself and communicate some ideas that would normally be difficult to voice. This is a day to get out and explore the world, not sit in front of a computer screen.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Thursday February 15th at 4:05 P.M. EST at 27 degrees Aquarius 08 minutes, and it's a Solar Eclipse. 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.

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.

January 17th 1:30 A.M. – 3:32 A.M.

January 19th 6:52 A.M. – 3:25 P.M. ***Moon is void 8 hours

January 21st 8:13 P.M. – January 22nd 1:27 A.M.

January 23rd 11:16 P.M. – January 24th 8:39 A.M. ***Moon is void 9 hours

th

th

January 25 10:17 P.M. – January 26 12:40 P.M. ***Moon is void 14 hours

January 28th 5:39 A.M. – 1:57 P.M. ***Moon is void 8 hours

January 30th 11:40 A.M. – 1:53 P.M.

February 1st 5:58 A.M. – 2:13 P.M. ***Moon is void 8 hours

February 3rd 2:07 A.M. – 4:47 P.M. ***Moon is void 14 hours

February 5th 1:46 P.M. – 10:56 P.M. ***Moon is void 9 hours

February 8th 2:16 A.M. – 8:53 A.M.

February 10th 11:38 A.M. – 9:21 P.M. ***Moon is void 10 hours

February 13th 12:43 A.M. – 10:11 A.M. ***Moon is void 9 hours

February 15th 4:05 P.M. – 9:42 P.M.

February 17th 5:13 P.M. – February 18th 7:05 P.M.

February 20th 6:11 A.M. – 2:12 P.M.

January 2018

New York City

(212) 726-3814

Copyright 2018

All Rights Reserved

