## MONTHLY SINCE 1999 ISSUE # 224

# LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

#### March 2018

#### **AUTHOR'S NOTES:**

This month we will see a plethora of Pisces and Neptune energy that will challenge our sense of reality and stability. Mars squares Neptune, Mercury and the Sun enter Pisces, Venus, Mercury and the Sun all conjunct Neptune. This will create an atmosphere of some confusion and misdirection. It may be difficult to clear the air at times, and caution is called for. It will be easy to make mistakes or misunderstand what someone is saying. This will prove difficult at times in the stock market, government and our interactions with each other. Do not take things at face value. Be prepared to question what you see and clarify any issues that are cloudy.

**Jupiter will retrograde on March 8<sup>th</sup>.** This is often a top to the stock markets, or at least a time when our collective questions how much more growth there is in the equities and in many other issues. Jupiter also rules the law, and there will be some important legal matters that will come to the surface. When Jupiter is Rx it's a time to seek growth on an internal level more than a material one. I discuss it more at length in the body of this newsletter on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The recent drop in the equity markets has certainly put many on edge. While the stock markets are not a true indicator of the economy and act more on psychology than on fundamentals, it still has a huge effect on our collective sense of security. On my recent appearance on Coast to Coast AM on New Year's Night I said that we were heading into a period of volatility and I expected inflation to rear its ugly head. I also believe that many of the policies of this administration, including the horrible Tax Act, which I believe is a Trojan horse, will eat away at the world markets. The budget proposed by the White House is so mean spirited and blatantly derisive, aimed at destroying the safety net Americans have learned to rely on, if it takes effect we will see a continued deterioration of faith and stability that will dissolve our underlying foundation. What we have just seen is a correction, not a crash. The markets are already recovering and rearing up for another push upward. But there's little doubt in my mind that we will see a crash sometime in 2018 – 2019. It may not be a single drop as we saw in 2008, but rather a deterioration of confidence. What we have just seen is a warning and the first step in that direction. And with Jupiter about to retrograde I think we will see volatility return and shake up the markets once again. But this isn't going to be a crash – at least not yet.

The most recent mass shooting in a Florida high school has again broken our hearts and once more pushes us as individuals and as a collective to the edge of understanding and compassion. It is long past the time to address this problem directly and take on the challenge of redefining our relationship with firearms. This will not be an easy battle, as you know. It is built into our national persona, from the early movies and ongoing westerns to our war films, books and TV shows that idealize this violent mentality.

#### **NEW MOON:**

The New Moon falls on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:05 P.M. EST at 27 degrees Aquarius 08 minutes, and it's a Solar Eclipse. We are in the midst of an eclipse season. As always it's important to pay attention and avoid certain pitfalls while these eclipses are active. Things are often set off by these transits and if one hits your chart directly it may mean an active event. The Lunar eclipse January 31st led to a big correction in the stock markets. We saw several days of more than 1,000 point drops in the DOW. While that sounds like a serious matter, in fact it's just business as usual. The problem is that lately we haven't been doing "business as usual". These markets have been on a tear for years, with very few corrections, or pull-backs. So when one occurs everyone gets hysterical. But now the markets have stabilized for the time being and everything is back to normal. While I believe we are going to see severe volatility in the stocks over the coming months and the next few years as inflation sets in and some of this administration's policies are implemented, this is probably the temporary end of the instability, at least for now. Aquarius is the sign most associated with sudden and upsetting events. There was yet another mass shooting at a high school in Florida. It breaks my heart, and I'm sure many of you feel the same. It's become all too painfully common to mourn the loss of our citizens and children, as if this is normal. It's human nature to shrug and go about our business, but I think this issue will become more and more central and we will eventually find a way to stand up to the gun lobby and, in the name of decency and compassion, start a discussion about this most horrific and irrational issue.

#### **MARS SQUARES NEPTUNE:**

On Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:21 A.M. EST this difficult square will complete early in the morning. Mars rules the ego, the energy we produce in our body and in society. Neptune tends to dissolve whatever it comes in contact with. That makes it hard to act in a forceful and direct fashion while this is in orb. It can bring up issues of insecurity and will at times force us to pullback from action and projects that logic would insist prevail. America has this square in its chart. Our nation is the strongest, richest country ever to exist on earth. And yet our collective consciousness displays symptoms of irrational fear, racism and anger. But as with all aspects there is another side that can also be projected. This can lead to acts of almost superhuman generosity and compassion that is also a part of our collective persona. Today we will all have the opportunity to react in either manner. There may be moments of doubt and confusion that could cause us some angst. But there will also be a chance to rise above it all and show the stronger and more giving side of our personality. Use a little caution today and don't be surprised if there are moments of uncertainty or suspicion. But don't let them overwhelm you. Look for the higher minded and act accordingly.

#### **THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:**

Also on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:28 A.M. EST this willful aspect completes. This is a common transit that occurs several times a year. While it's active many people will be a bit forceful and demanding in their speech and arguments are certainly possible. It will speed up communications and stir the mind into action. You may find it difficult to keep up with everything that's going on, but if you focus you can get a lot of errands and communications done. This completes early in the day and then begins to dissipate, so much of the energy will take place while many of us are either asleep or just getting the day started, which will limit its effects both positive and negative.

#### **MERCURY ENTERS PISCES:**

Also on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:28 P.M. EST until March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:35 A.M. EST Mercury enters this Neptune ruled sign. This can be a difficult placement at times because the logical mind represented by Mercury can feel out of sorts here. Pisces energy is more about the spiritual and ethereal way of looking at situations, not intellectual perspectives, and the two often seem to clash. For the next few weeks it would be wise to make certain you understand what others are saying and to clarify your own words and thoughts. Misunderstandings are common, but with a little extra care you can avoid most pitfalls. This is a very good transit for musicians, poets, painters and most creative sorts. But you need to double check your work or have an editor look it over. Otherwise you could make mistakes that will go undiscovered only to come out later and cause embarrassment.

#### **THE SUN ENTERS PISCES:**

On Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:18 P.M. EST we enter the last sign of the zodiac. In many ways this is the completion of projects and events we have been working on for the past year. I always celebrate the first day of Aries as the New Year. It's the beginning of the zodiacal year and it makes much more sense to me than some pagan Roman holiday in the middle of the winter. While the Sun transits here our attention will be aimed at giving service to others. This can be done in any number of ways. Musicians work with Piscean energy, even if they are rich and famous. It's the service they give to their audience that matters, not the monetary rewards. All charities and selfless acts of mercy fall into this sign's domain. With so many Neptunian transits active this month it will be a period of giving and helping. Do what you can and lend a hand. It will come back to you many times over. Pisces also rules music, film, photography and other fine arts. If there's a creative project you've been working on this may be a time of great forward motion towards completion. This sign also rules medicine, healing and all drugs (legal or illegal) and it's a time when some people may have to make choices about a medical procedure or prescription. If so, do it with great care and try to understand exactly what the potential results may be.

## **VENUS CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

On Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:42 P.M. EST the planet of love and money conjuncts Neptune, ruler of Pisces. This month is a period of serious Piscean energy that will challenge our sense of clarity and push us all to do our part to help others. This conjunct can create a lot of confusion in relationships and it's easy

to misunderstand what someone is saying or what their feelings are. The best thing to do is bring everything out into the open and see truth in the light of day. That's the only way to dissolve Neptune's cloudiness. Sometimes this aspect will lead to the start of a new love affair. If so, you would be wise to wait a little while before committing too much of your feelings. Things may not be as they seem, and the other person could be projecting a false image. It's also quite possible to find someone loving and caring who just wishes to help. If that's the case waiting a little while won't deter the connection and they will show that side in a week or two as well. Be careful with your money. This is an aspect that can often dissolve your resources without realizing what's happening. Unexpected expenses or even losing some cash or a credit card may be the manifestation. With all Neptune transits it's important to pay attention to what you're doing.

#### **VENUS SQUARES MARS:**

On Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:01 A.M. EST the male and female planets are in conflict. This can be a day of some tension between the sexes. There's a tendency to act in aggressive ways and not allow for mutual understanding. Try to find the softer side of your discussion and be more sensitive to the other person's needs. This square can stimulate interest in the opposite sex, and there will be much interaction between men and women (there usually is anyway). But some of the encounters may be a little harsh and overly assertive. There's nothing wrong with that as long as communication is open and honest and you each are willing to see the other person's point of view.

## **MERCURY CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

Also on Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:26 A.M. EST this intense Neptunian energy continues. This is a very confusing aspect. It often leads to misunderstandings and errors. It's important to express yourself with care and make sure that you are understood. Misinformation is often the result and some people may even use this energy consciously to deceive you or present a less than honest response. There's not much we can do to eliminate the fog Neptune creates, but if you are aware that things aren't as clear as they may seem, you can avoid making irreversible decisions that you may regret later.

#### **THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:**

Also on Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:46 P.M. EST this positive and very useful sextile offers us all a chance to get some serious work done. This is a good day to look over plans, clean up any paperwork and make decisions about your goals and objectives. There's a serious undertone to everything we do, and it's not a day for frivolous actions or mundane issues. You should be focusing on the most important things and dealing with your obligations. It's not a good day to waste time. You'll feel unfulfilled and won't get much from the activity. It's better to aim your attention where you need it most and to deal with the important issues. Because this coincides with Mercury conjunct Neptune mentioned above it may not be as easy to focus your mind earlier in the day. But that aspect has faded by now and you can catch up on any work that has been demanding your response.

#### **MERCURY SQUARES MARS:**

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On Wednesday February 28 at 6:56 P.M. EST arguments will abound. Everyone has an opinion today and is quite anxious to express it. This will be a day when most people won't be willing to give an inch and compromise may be quite difficult to achieve. The tongue will move quickly, so do be careful how you way things. There will be a lack of subtlety and harsh words may cloud the intent behind them. Use caution while traveling. This could easily lead to some accidents, especially in a car or other method of transportation. With the recent epidemic of train accidents even that usually secure mode of conveyance has suddenly become a source of worry. But with some caution you can avoid most pitfalls. This will be a day of active communications and mental activity, and if you can focus it you can accomplish a lot in a short time. Just don't let your aggressive side rule you.

#### **MERCURY SEXTILES PLUTO:**

Also on Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:40 P.M. EST this sextile will make us all more aware of the deeper side to any conversation. Because this is a positive aspect we can delve into subjects without fear of being overwhelmed or swept away in obsession. But still this is an energy that can be compulsive and it may be difficult to let go of an attitude or idea. Try not to be unbending. Compromise is quite possible today as long as you keep an open mind, but following the Mercury square Mars mentioned above there may still be a sense of aggression and a pushy attitude. As with most Mercury-Pluto connections you won't be satisfied with superficial answers and will attempt to strip away any false fronts. But with a little awareness you can do so without upsetting things.

## **VENUS TRINES JUPITER:**

On Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:22 A.M. EST this wonderfully pleasant and easy transit will allow us all a short respite of peace and tranquility. When these two heavenly bodies are in contact we all want to enjoy life and its pleasures. This is a day when peace and relaxation are in demand. The only word of advice is that there is a tendency to overdo things. Overindulgences are common, and because this completes so early in the morning it is the night before when many of us may consume too much food, drink or sweets. A little restraint will go a long way. Because we will see the Virgo Full Moon this evening, today may have an underlying sense of pent up energy waiting to be released. Still, if you can find the time for a short break, have a pleasant lunch, see a movie, take a drive, or a long walk. It will help rejuvenate your batteries and bring you much pleasure.

#### **FULL MOON:**

This month's lunar peak occurs on Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:51 P.M. EST at 11 degrees Virgo 23 minutes. Details will be in focus now and it will be easy to see the little things. Pay attention and you may uncover mistakes and any misdirection. Virgo is very good at minutiae but often misses the bigger picture. It's important for the next few weeks to see how things fit together and what the ultimate goals are, and not get lost in too much detail. This is an intellectual sign ruled by Mercury, and paperwork, communications and careful reasoning will be prominent. Virgo also has much to do with health issues. While the opposite sign of Pisces rules doctors, Virgo rules nurses. And while a surgeon may remove or fix something in the body, it's really the nurse who helps us heal in the following weeks. If there are any underlying medical

issues they may come out now. Virgo also rules the small intestines and has a lot to do with digestion. Any problems in the assimilation of food and nutrients may also come to the surface now. Use this energy to carefully examine things and see where any problems may be, but don't lose sight of your ultimate objectives.

#### **MERCURY TRINES JUPITER:**

On Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:05 A.M. EST another very easy going and pleasant transit will complete. This is an optimistic and outgoing energy that will make communications of all sorts pleasurable. This is a good time to have any important conversation or for a public presentation. Communications of all sorts will be active and there's an underlying feeling of optimism and enthusiasm that will favor all contacts. This is also a terrific day to travel. A long or short journey that begins now will have a better than usual chance of success and pleasure.

## **THE SUN CONJUNCTS NEPTUNE:**

On Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:55 A.M. EST confusion will reign supreme. Under this combination misunderstandings are common, so it is vital that you make sure you are understood and that you understand what others are saying and doing. Neptune tends to dissipate energy and can lead to moments of self-doubt and physical or mental exhaustion. If this hits your chart you may be rather tired this morning, and not be able to push your energy to its usual level today. Just take precautions and find time for periodic rest. Neptune also has much to do with all infections and any breakdown in the immunity. Extra care is called for. If someone has the flu you may be better off visiting them when they get over it. This is also usually a very bad aspect for the stocks, and I wouldn't be surprised by a few days of retreat in the equity markets.

## **MERCURY CONJUNCTS VENUS:**

Also on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:06 P.M. EST this easy transit will change the atmosphere quite a bit. This is a very pleasant and easy energy that will make all communications enjoyable. This would be a good day for any important conversation or if there have been some strife between you and someone. You can state your case without aggression and should be able to find compromise. The only advice is not to negotiate any important issues. You may not be as sure of your point of view, and it's possible that in your efforts to avoid conflict you may agree to something that you will regret later. Travel is favored and it's a good day to append in nature or engaging in any creative or artistic venture. Go to a show, museum or just take a long walk. You will gain much from the experience.

#### **MERCURY ENTERS ARIES:**

On Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:35 A.M. EST until May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:40 A.M. EST Mercury will travel through this assertive sign. Because it will retrograde on March 22<sup>nd</sup> it will remain in Aries for an extended period. This will give us all a long period in which to recognize how overly aggressive communications can influence our lives and society in general. Most people will be rather direct and forceful in their speech and other communiques. Try to keep that in mind when you present your opinions. This is a rather unbending sign

and it is better at initiating than in following through. Don't make promises you don't intend to keep. There will be an aggressive tone to public announcements and issues. This isn't a gentle or unassuming energy, but rather a forceful and unyielding attitude with little patience. Expect things to move quickly, and be careful not to make your judgments without some forethought or internal dialogue. It's easy to speak first and think later under this energy, but that can lead to all sorts of problems. We study astrology to help us time our actions and make important decisions properly. With some care this can be a very productive and energetic time when conversations will be honest and open. But it can also be a period of strife and misunderstandings if we don't temper our speech and actions carefully. It's really up to you.

## **VENUS ENTERS ARIES:**

Also on Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:46 P.M. EST until March 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:54 A.M. EST love will take on a decidedly assertive air as Venus enters this Mars-ruled sign. Many romances will begin now, and they will tend to feel more Martian than Venusian. This is a combination of the male and female energies and if there is balance in your approach to relationships it may be a time when you can engage in a successful connection and build a bond of trust and understanding. But if you act too aggressively and don't look for compromise you may inadvertently push away a potential lover or friend. This overly assertive attitude will also have an effect on how you and the collective view financial matters.

#### **JUPITER RETROGRADES:**

On Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:46 P.M. EST until July 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:04 P.M. EDT the biggest planet will begin to move backwards. When a planet moves backwards we say that the energy of that heavenly body becomes more internalized. Jupiter is known as the planet of expansion and growth. Where it falls in a natal chart will show how the individual looks at their future and their prospects. Its placement and aspects can show the person's attitude regarding expansion. It is the planet most associated with optimism and enthusiasm. The retrograde of Jupiter doesn't mean that there won't be growth or that everything will be stifled until it turns around. But there is often a period when the expansion has more to do with what we think of ourselves and our place in the universe than with material things. This is often a time when the stocks change direction, usually to the down side. I expect the markets to show weakness as we get further into the spring, and while this won't necessarily be exactly when the equities collapse, over the next few months it may be when they start to head back down, eventually leading to a bear market. The best way to use the retrograde motion of any planet is to look within yourself and see what changes you can make to improve your influence in the world. It was Leo Tolstoy who said: Everyone talks about changing the world. No one talks about changing themselves. Whatever you do in the outside can temporarily affect many people. What you do on the inside will ultimately affect many more.

## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 2:00 A.M.**

## **MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:**

On Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 A.M. EDT a serious tone will prevail. It's a day to pay attention to the most important issues and not be distracted by frivolous attitudes. This is a time to look at your plans and goals

and see if they really represent what you want from life. If not, you may choose to redirect your actions and follow a different path. Because this completes in the middle of the night its effects will be felt more the night before. I wouldn't plan any big parties or important dates for Saturday Night, unless the desire is for a focused and reality oriented evening. This isn't the most fun-loving aspect, but it is very positive for facing important issues and decisions. By late Sunday morning this will have separated enough to dissipate and the Mars trine Uranus will take over, setting the stage for a different type of energy.

#### **MARS TRINES URANUS:**

Also on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:21 A.M. EDT this very useful aspect will help aim your attention in the direction that will lead you on the right path. If this trine is used properly it can help you accomplish much and will free your ego to engage in self-expression and a show of individuality. With this and the Sun sextile Pluto mentioned below this will be a day of direct and honest attitudes. You can use this trine for many things that have to do with your sense of self and how you relate to the collective. Mars rules the ego, and Uranus rules things done in groups. Anyway that you can interact with others towards a common goal will prove effective and has a good chance of success. This is a powerful aspect, and even though it's a positive one you should use caution and not allow the energy to overwhelm you. If you aim it into projects and are able to compromise you can get a lot done.

## **THE SUN SEXTILES PLUTO:**

Also on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:52 A.M. EDT this positive sextile will allow us all to delve deeply into any subject that comes up. We will not be satisfied with superficial answers and will try to uncover any hidden agendas or thoughts. This is a deep transit and will not just brush over things. It will analyze and dig into the underlying subject and attitude. It comes so close to the Mars trine Uranus mentioned above that they really are connected and will create an atmosphere jointly shared. This morning will be intense. These are positive transits, so there's no reason to assume any real problems will arise. But they may bring some things to the surface that you hadn't planned on dealing with, so be prepared for any situation that demands your attention. This isn't a day to waste, but rather a time to push your ideas, agendas and plans forward in a clear and concise manner.

#### **VENUS SQUARES SATURN:**

On Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:39 A.M. EDT this limiting aspect may make it hard to express your feelings. This is another transit that completes early in the day, so its effects will be limited. But this morning you may feel like spending some time alone. That's probably the best way to use this energy. If you can, take a long walk and clear your mind. Sometimes this square will lead you to examine your most intimate relationships, especially if this hits your chart just so. You may find that there is a connection that hasn't been working out for some time. If so, you should think things through before acting upon it. Saturn will often just show us the more negative and critical side of something. If there really is an underlying problem in a relationship it will still be there in a day or two and you can act upon what you are discovering now in a few days. As today day progresses this will give way to the Sun trine Jupiter mentioned below, a very

positive and optimistic aspect that will change the attitude greatly and bring us a more sociable and outgoing energy to work with.

#### **THE SUN TRINES JUPITER:**

Also on Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:06 P.M. EDT this wonderful and outgoing aspect will close off the transits for this month. This is a very optimistic and enthusiastic energy that favors all social activities, educational pursuits, and travel. Anything that will expand your consciousness will prove quite beneficial and positive. If you can get away, this would be a good day for a journey of any sort. But even if you can't, many of us "travel" through the internet or other forms of expansion, and that may be rewarding as well. Still, if you can get away even for a few hours I would suggest doing so. You need to enlarge your perspective under this trine, and any way that you can take advantage of this energy will be very helpful.

#### **DARK OF THE MOON:**

The next New Moon falls on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:12 A.M. EST at 26 degrees Pisces 53 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.

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:

February 15<sup>th</sup> 4:05 P.M. – 9:42 P.M.

February 17<sup>th</sup> 5:13 P.M. – February 18<sup>th</sup> 7:05 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 14 hours

February 20<sup>th</sup> 6:11 A.M. – 2:12 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 8 hours

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:46 A.M. – 7:07 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

February 24<sup>th</sup> 2:58 P.M. – 10:06 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 7 hours

February 26<sup>th</sup> 4:51 P.M. – 11:42 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 7 hours

February 28<sup>th</sup> 6:13 P.M. – March 1<sup>st</sup> 12:57 A.M.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:50 P.M. – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 3:20 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 8 hours

March 5<sup>th</sup> 1:19 A.M. – 8:23 A.M.

March 7<sup>th</sup> 3:55 A.M. – 5:03 P.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 13 hours

March 9<sup>th</sup> 9:27 P.M. – March 10<sup>th</sup> 4:52 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 8 hours

March 12<sup>th</sup> 11:36 A.M. – 6:44 P.M.

March 15<sup>th</sup> 3:32 A.M. – 6:12 A.M.

March 17<sup>th</sup> 9:12 A.M. – 2:57 P.M.

March 19<sup>th</sup> 3:29 P.M. – 9:07 P.M.

March 21<sup>st</sup> 1:21 P.M. – March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:30 A.M. \*\*\*Moon is void 12 hours

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