

MONTHLY SINCE 1999

ISSUE # 226

LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

April-May 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:

Mercury has just begun its forward motion and we will see things moving at a rapid pace for a few days. Whenever that planet changes direction it takes a little while for us to catch up. Many difficulties occur as the turnaround is happening, so pay attention for a few days. This is a period of new beginnings, not only because the direct motion happens right before the New Moon, but because it's the Aries New Moon, and thus the start of a new yearly cycle. Aim your energy towards new projects.

Saturn and Pluto begin their retrograde motion this month. This is a period of redirection of energy when we will all be forced to look at our plans and objectives from a new perspective. Because these two planets are transiting Capricorn and will conjunct next year, this is a period of several years when responsibilities and work will be most pressing. As we approach that conjunct in 2019 – 2020 long term plans will be our focus. Strengthen your foundation and make sure that you are heading in the direction you really want. It will be harder to change direction once these planets begin their forward motion in the fall. Now is the time for internal reflection.

But the biggest event we are facing is the imminent ingress of Uranus into Taurus on May 15th right after the next New Moon. Taurus rules the 2nd house of money and values. It has much to do with our finances, both individually and collectively, and with Uranus being the planet of radical and unexpected events we will see a lot of volatility and violent ups and downs in the markets. Because Taurus is a Venus ruled sign we may also see evidence of this in our relationships. Until we get used to Uranus in this fixed earth sign you can expect some erratic behavior in our most intimate connections, and many hookups will be fleeting and unstable. Because this takes place following the New Moon I will discuss it at greater length in the next newsletter.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday April 15th at 9:57 P.M. EDT at 26 degrees Aries 02 minutes. The Aries New Moon is perhaps the most assertive of all. It's the first after the Sun has begun its journey anew through the zodiac and it has a special placement in our yearly cycle. The decisions you make now will

have a long lasting effect that will influence your choices for the next 12 months. Try to look at your life and your ongoing projects and see which are most important and what direction you wish to take in the coming year. You need to aim your attention where it will do the most good and help you move forward. You must cut ties on those ideas, plans and relationships that are holding you back, and accept new concepts. As with all new beginnings you must prune your garden to allow for new growth. This doesn't mean throw out everything. Sometimes a project, idea or relationship just needs to be viewed from a new perspective. The fact that Mercury goes direct right before this New Moon implies that things will begin to move very quickly now and the energy is aimed at new beginnings and a redirection of your plans. Be prepared to take control and don't be afraid of the unknown. Aries is the vitality of youth. Those who continue to embrace the joy and excitement of youth no matter what age you are will always have a fulfilling life. You must accept and respect the aging process, and always be realistic about your age. But I know people who are old at 35 and some who are very young at 90. It's all about attitude and the joy of life. This New Moon represents that choice. Choose wisely. And stay forever young.

VENUS OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Tuesday April 17th at 2:59 A.M. EDT this is a very positive aspect that favors relationships, finances and all social interaction. This can make you feel optimistic and outgoing, and if this hits your chart just right it could represent some financial reward. But for most of us it's just a good energy for romance and creative ventures. Because it completes so early in the morning its effects will be more powerful the night before. But it will set the atmosphere for Tuesday. There is a strong desire to overdo things when these two planets get together, so use some common sense and don't overindulge in food, drink and other corporeal pleasures. You will regret it once this passes. But other than that word of warning this should be a pleasant and enjoyable time.

VENUS TRINES PLUTO:

Also on Tuesday April 17th at 9:02 A.M. our desire is to get to the bottom of things, especially in relationships, and because this is a positive trine you can do so without upsetting the applecart. Dig deeply into issues and don't be afraid to discuss whatever is on your mind. Others will be open to hearing it, and you can uncover the truth without anger. This is a good day for dealing with financial matters. Venus rules the natural 2nd house of money and values, and Pluto controls the 8th house of other people's resources and joint financial ventures. If you're dealing with material issues or trying to work out a partnership agreement, this may be a good time to push the negotiations forward.

SATURN RETROGRADES:

Also on Tuesday April 17th at 9:47 P.M. EDT until September 6th at 7:10 A.M. EDT Saturn begins its yearly trek backwards. This will be a time for internal structuring when many of us will look over our inner foundation and see where there are problems. When Saturn is in retrograde it can be difficult to complete certain matters. Real estate and banking are two areas that may give you some problems. But because it is

Rx for almost half the year you can't avoid working with this energy. You certainly shouldn't stop your projects or delay buying or selling a house for that long. You just need to use some caution and double check your paperwork and make sure this is the house you really want and can afford. Some astrologers advise not to begin a new business while Saturn is Rx. But again, that's almost half the year, and there are many, many successful businesses that began during this period. It's more a matter of understanding the yin yang of internal and external matters and embracing the connection between the two. If you do that, then you will be successful in your ventures. But if you try to create a project that only deals with the material and outward value of things you may find that somewhere down the road it lacks the foundation to sustain growth and stability. There are examples of companies that were begun under this energy and failed because they were only obsessed with money and ignored a deeper purpose. In our personal situations we must recognize these issues and understand that your life is your corporation and should be dealt with accordingly.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Wednesday April 18th at 9:59 A.M. EDT this explosive energy will stir up things. You need to be careful around this aspect. It can represent aggressive actions, anger or accidents. The Sun rules the will and the power behind our day to day lives. Whatever planet it comes in contact with will influence our behavior in a very personal way. Because Uranus seeks out unbridled action and tends to be volatile we could see some unsettling issues in our personal lives, or on the world stage. The days leading up this may be tense. There could be a contentious event in the world. I'm watching the events in the Middle East for evidence of escalation to the ongoing conflict in Syria. But this aspect could manifest elsewhere as well. In our own lives if this conjunct sets off your chart it may create some instability or represent a skirmish with someone. Accidents are very possible so it would be wise to use extra caution and avoid dangerous situations. If you're driving you must pay attention. The other guy may be feeling this transit more than you and could act in an antagonistic or belligerent manner that you may get drawn into. This could also be the case in the world. America could get drawn deeper into a quagmire that will prove disastrous in the long run. Israel is facing some very difficult aspects over the coming year and they could easily see an escalation in the problems in Gaza, or with Iran and Syria. Sometimes a quick moving transit such as this one will set off events that could take years to complete. This is also true for the individual, so use caution when confronted with any conflicts. Is it really worth your time and effort? Or would you be better off sidestepping it?

THE SUN ENTERS TAURUS:

On Thursday April 19th at 11:13 P.M. EDT we enter the fixed earth sign. This is the heart of spring when the world comes alive anew and the plants and animals recognize that it's time to grow new life. It's mating season for many species, and the perennials spout new growth. Flowers will begin to come out and it's the beginning of the most colorful time of the year. Taurus has a well-earned reputation for being stubborn and unbending. That will be an underlying theme for the next month, so be aware and don't butt heads when it isn't necessary. This is a very sensual sign and enjoys all pleasures, including food, drink and physical

interaction. It's also one of the most loyal of signs, and any relationship or connection that begins now will demand that sense of allegiance and reliability.

PLUTO RETROGRADES:

On Sunday April 22nd at 11:23 A.M. EDT until September 30th at 10:01 P.M. EDT many things will go undercover. This is a time when agendas will be hidden and it will take some prodding to bring the truth out into the open. With world events very much on edge it's most important to dig deeply into the underlying reasons behind the actions and to force an open conversation. To let things remain hidden could make it that much harder to understand what's really going on. With all Pluto aspects it's better to bring things to light and confront the issues than to pretend everything is fine. But while it is Rx it requires a strong determination to illuminate the shadows. Over the coming months we will experience a number of confrontations that can only be resolved through clarity and openness. Unfortunately there are forces at work both personally and collectively that will try to hinder that process. In your own life you would be better off confronting any issue that might cause you angst later on. This is true for nations as well, but you and I have little control over that. As Tolstoy once said: *Everyone thinks about changing the world, but no one thinks about changing themselves.*

MARS SEXTILES JUPITER:

On Tuesday April 24th at 1:13 A.M. EDT this is a very positive and optimistic transit that will set the atmosphere for the day. Egos will be prominent and many people may feel overly assertive. This is a very useful and confident energy, but be careful not to act in an arrogant or opinionated manner. That could push others away. But for the most part we can use this energy to our advantage without being too pushy. How we use this has much to do with the layout of your natal chart and how these two planets are positioned and aspected. This favors all physical activities and it's a great day for sports, a long walk on the beach or any other activity that uses your muscles. It offers us an opportunity to expand our projects and while many will find it easier to work alone, if you use this successfully you should be able to rely on others to work towards a common goal.

VENUS ENTERS GEMINI:

Also on Tuesday April 24th at 12:40 P.M. EDT until May 19th at 9:11 A.M. EDT the planet of love begins its travels through this Mercury ruled sign. For the next month romance will be about communication of all sorts. How you talk to each other will be most important, so keep that in mind. The best way to reach your significant other is through conversation. This is a time to explore the intellectual and conversational side of relationships. Because of the dual nature of Gemini it's possible that you may find yourself infatuated with more than one person at a time. That is when communications will prove to be the most valuable of tools.

MERCURY SQUARES SATURN:

On Wednesday April 25th at 5:27 P.M. EDT this low energy aspect will put a damper on our thoughts and

speech. It may be very difficult to express yourself and you might find that communications of all sorts are slowed and a bit restrained. Even if you are by nature a bit edgy you need to find patience and take your time or you could regret acting impulsively. If this sets off your chart it may be a day or so when you feel unenthusiastic or down in the dumps. Don't overreact. This will pass soon. And don't make any permanent decisions while Saturn is active. You're only seeing the worst of things and if you do act under this energy your choices may not feel right once this energy passes. There is an underlying sense of pent up tension that doesn't seem to have an outlet. Take things in stride today. This is a good time to deal with details and to clean up any unfinished work. Set your sights on your projects and save the personal situations for another day. This isn't a great time for a first date or for negotiating a contract or settlement. Leave all of that for another day.

MARS CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Thursday April 26th at 6:54 A.M. EDT there will be a harsh feeling in the air. This combination can create a compulsiveness that may make it hard to let go of things. Be aware and don't allow yourself to become obsessed with an idea or attitude. The main concern with this conjunct is that any hidden or unexpressed tension or anger could come out now. If there is unexpressed ire it could bubble up from the unconscious now and you may react from it without even realizing what's motivating your rage. These are the two planets that co-rule Scorpio and there is a feeling that things must be dealt with immediately. There is that "black or white" sense that Scorpio can produce, but it may not be necessary to make such final decisions. All Pluto transits offer us an opportunity to handle power. This is why it often brings up power struggles; to test whether you are ready for that added control. If you can learn to compromise and make sure everyone involved gains from the situation, then you will be less likely to have to fight for what you believe in. But if you try to take over the whole situation then you will come up against resistance and have to tussle to accomplish what you wish to.

THE SUN TRINES SATURN:

On Sunday April 29th at 6:03 A.M. EDT this very useful aspect will bring order to our world, at least for a little while. This is a very realistic and functional energy that will give structure and clarity to many things. This is a good transit under which we can focus our attention on the most important issues and deal with all sorts of responsibilities. This is a good day for putting things in order and taking care of details. You can clean up your office, answer those nagging emails or put the finishing touches on any project that has been lingering. It precedes the Scorpio Full Moon tonight, so you may find that this sense of balance is short lived. Try to make the most of this and put things in order.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday April 29th at 8:58 P.M. EDT at 9 degrees Scorpio 39 minutes. All Full Moons should be respected and handled in a careful manner. The Scorpio energy has a bad rap in astrology, but it's very misunderstood. While it is possible for this Pluto-ruled sign to work in a hidden or unexpressed manner or to hold onto anger, its real desire is to reach deeply into any subject and

understand the underlying feelings. Scorpio is the energy of rejuvenation. The 8th house (Scorpio's domain) is the place we go to in our zodiac to remove what is worn out and replace it with something new. As such, this Full Moon *can* represent that process in its most startling manner. It offers an opportunity to shed our old skin and grow a new cover. While this is a positive and necessary part of life if done properly and timely, it can sometimes be forced causing us to remove what isn't really ready to be replaced. That is the danger with Scorpio energy. We say this sign sees things in black and white, sometimes changing an opinion without warning and unable to change back again. Be careful that whatever you feel has outlived its usefulness truly has or you may find in short order that you regret your decision. Words and ideas can come very forcefully under this transit, so take care what you say and how you say it or you may toss away what is most precious for a fleeting infatuation or temper tantrum. If something really is no longer valid it should become obvious now. Just make sure. Because Scorpio and its ruler Pluto have much to do with what's buried beneath the surface, we may see some hidden agendas come to the forefront. On the world stage there is the chance of some vengeful actions, or an underhanded attempt at retribution. This is a day that I would advise caution and paying close attention to your environment. If something doesn't feel right walk away.

THE SUN SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday May 6th at 9:57 A.M. EDT this creative energy will offer us a chance to embrace the ethereal. This is a good aspect for all creative and spiritual endeavors and it can open our hearts and minds to things unrelated to the material world. You may feel a little spacey, but it shouldn't be difficult to circumvent any confusion. This is a nice energy for being in nature, writing, painting or other artistic ventures, or for enjoying any form of entertainment. This can be a subtle energy and you may not even notice it, but if you put yourself into an environment conducive to the transcendent or mystical you will be more in tune and experience this more powerfully.

MERCURY SQUARES PLUTO:

On Monday May 7th at 4:49 A.M. EDT this feisty aspect completes. It can manifest as an argument or a deeper understanding of things. Which way it goes has much to do with how firmly you hold onto your opinions. If you stay open-minded you may discover some very important truths and can clear the air about anything that has been kept under cover. But it may take a lot of self-control not to push your agenda onto the other person. Conversations may be difficult and there will be a tendency for each of you to think you are absolutely right in your thinking. That is rarely the case, and the better you are able to hear what the other person has to say the more you will gain from this transit. As with many Mercury squares some caution is called for when traveling. Because this completes so early in the morning, if you're on the road the night before or early in the morning you must stay alert and aware of your environment. Venus is in square to Neptune later in the day and the Sun opposes Jupiter the next night, so you must be careful not to over indulge in alcohol or other mind altering substances and to use common sense in all interactions with others. The combination of these three transits all coming so close together will create an unworldly atmosphere for a few days so pay attention.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

Also on Monday May 7th at 5:59 P.M. EDT this confusing and rather strange transit will create a fog around many issues. Financial matters may become quite confusing and it would be wise to be careful with your money. This may be a bad day for the stock markets. This isn't a time to make important or permanent decisions about finances, personally or collectively. You may not be seeing things clearly and could make mistakes that may cost you in the long run. This is also true in relationships. A romance may seem perfect and ideal. That feeling should set off a warning bell telling you to go slow, but with the Neptune influence you may not be as aware as you think you are. I would suggest that you take a few days before committing your heart to something new. If it still looks spectacular once this has waned, then give it a go.

THE SUN OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Tuesday May 8th at 8:39 P.M. EDT we all will tend to overdo things and to overstate our position. For the most part this is a sociable and enjoyable transit and you should be with people. It's a good day for a date, a group activity or any form of entertainment. It also favors travel, so if possible get out and do something. But remember that Jupiter has little regard for boundaries of any sort. It wants more of everything. Oppositions work themselves out through other people. Much of this aspect will manifest through our relationships. Just be careful not to blow things out of proportion, either good or bad. If there's a problem with someone you may be wise to revisit it in a day or two. If a romance or partnership of any kind is brewing you might also get caught up in that Jupiter expansion and could make it more than it is.

THE SUN TRINES PLUTO:

On Friday May 11th at 7:07 P.M. EDT we have another opportunity to dig deeply into any subject. This trine will bring up power struggles and issues of control, but you can work through them in a mutually opportunistic fashion and come to an equitable solution. The trines to Pluto give us a chance to use power, rather than be used by it. If you focus your attention and stay open-minded you can get things out in the open and discuss them freely. You may be able to come to some understanding that has eluded you in the past.

MERCURY SQUARES MARS:

On Saturday May 12th at 9:30 A.M. EDT this forceful square will make us all a bit edgy. This is an argument waiting to happen. If you have something important to say then this is the time to say it. But try not to be too pushy or arrogant. That might create a wedge between you and the other person that could easily lead to a fight. This is followed tomorrow by Mercury conjunct Uranus, another difficult and potentially explosive aspect, so for a few days you must be careful or you could create a rift that will be hard to heal. On the world stage we may see some harsh words or even violent actions take place. With the Middle East on a path to a larger military action it may explode now.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS URANUS:

On Sunday May 13th at 6:49 A.M. EDT this very dangerous aspect will set the stage for the day. This is a continuation of the Mercury square Mars we experienced yesterday and it continues to be a moment when caution and common sense are needed. Well, as they say: Common sense is not that common. Be careful with your words. What you say and how you say it will decide how others respond. As I said in the Mercury square Mars above this could be a few days when we see an escalation in hostilities. There are several powder-kegs that are sizzling at the moment. It could be very bad if one were to be ignited. In your personal life, use care while traveling. This can be an accident waiting to happen. Don't let it happen to you. If you pay attention and act defensively you can avoid most issues.

MERCURY ENTERS TAURUS:

Also on Sunday May 13th at 8:40 A.M. EDT until Tuesday May 29th at 7:49 P.M. EDT Mercury will travel through the fixed earth sign. Where there was an overabundance of excitability and rash words last month, now people will tend to be rather reticent and restrained in their thinking and communications. This will be a period of control, quite the opposite of what we've been experiencing. Taurus can be quite stubborn, so don't be surprised if you find it difficult to get someone to change their mind. Many will be focused on finances and shoring up their foundation. This can be a good placement for relationships, as Taurus is ruled by Venus. But it's more interested in stable and long lasting connections than one night stands.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday May 15th at 7:48 A.M. EDT at 24 degrees Taurus 36 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:

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 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.

April 22nd 10:58 A.M. – 1:09 P.M.

April 24th 2:39 P.M. – 4:40 P.M.

April 26th 5:49 A.M. – 9:13 P.M. ***Moon is void 16 hours

April 29th 1:32 A.M. – 3:11 A.M.

April 30th 10:56 P.M. – May 1st 11:19 A.M. ***Moon is void 12 hours

May 3rd 8:50 P.M. – 10:06 P.M.

May 6th 9:48 A.M. – 10:48 A.M.

May 8th 10:29 P.M. – 11:11 P.M.

May 11th 5:02 A.M. – 8:40 A.M.

May 13th 2:05 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

May 15th 4:30 P.M. – 4:43 P.M.

May 17th 2:18 P.M. – 5:47 P.M.

May 19th 5:14 P.M. – 7:11 P.M.

April 2018

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