

☆ StarGazer ☆

by Helena

Traditional and Magi Astrology™

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10/11/00 -- We have about 1 week until **Mercury Retrograde begins on 10/18/00**. With Mercury, the focus is on communications-- speaking, writing, meetings, numbers, etc. During this retrograde, expect more typos, more transposed digits, more confusion over discussions and meeting dates/times/places, and more computer glitches. The solution for this is patience, and the willingness to double- or triple- check everything important during this time. As we discussed before, retrogrades are great for integration, poor for innovation-- this is a great time to edit, re-do, or re-work something already in progress. If possible, try to delay anything in which the outcome is crucial or legally binding until the **retrograde ends on 11/7/00 at 6:26 pm PDT**. There will no doubt be some election implications here- be sure to double check that you are voting for your correct candidates!

Jupiter went retrograde on 9/29/00, and will remain so until 1/25/00. Jupiter has historically been called the "Greater Benefic," bringing us more, more, more, and with less effort. Jupiter allows us to expand our consciousness and our world, incorporating more into our current definitions of both self and surroundings. On a mundane level Jupiter rules such matters as higher learning, long distance travel, religion, and the law-- ways that we can seek to expand our awareness through the understanding of greater truths. During the retrograde we can expect delays in such matters, allowing us time to consolidate our latest "growth spurt," and to prepare for the next one.

Both **Uranus and Neptune go Direct this month--** Uranus on 10/26, and Neptune on 10/15. Since both of these planets relate to changing our crystallized realities and structures-- Uranus by blasting through them, and Neptune by dissolving them-- expect any inner or outer changes which have seemed delayed since both planets went retrograde in May to get on track again. Remember, we always need times to stop and catch our breath, especially during the profoundly transformative times symbolized by outer planet transits and progressions. This is the higher function of retrogrades-- and with the deeper-acting outer planets, we need longer periods of integration prior to resuming our evolutionary work. But as far as Uranus and Neptune are concerned for now-- we're back in the flow of progress, movement, and growth.

Our **Full Moon** this month is lucky Friday, Oct. 13th at 12:53 a.m. PDT. With Full Moon in Aries, we'll probably be feeling impatient, impetuous, and quite headstrong. This is a great time to get others to finalize, but probably a good time for us to postpone decisions until we're a little less fired-up and have more clarity. With the Sun and Moon forming a Grand Cross with the Moon's Nodes, we're indeed likely to make decisions which get us temporarily "off task" in terms of our soul mission. We usually feel the effects of the Full Moon for about 3 days before and after the culmination.

Our next **New Moon** is Friday, Oct. 27th at 2:58 a.m. PDT. With Sun and Moon in Scorpio squaring Neptune in Aquarius at the lunation, we're likely to have some difficulty separating dreams from delusions during this lunar month. With Neptune involvement, it's always good to get a "reality check" by running things by our most grounded and pragmatic friends-- keep that in mind this month. It does set us up for a mystical and other-worldly All Soul's Day, but we may be tempted to imbibe a lit-tle more than is good for us during Halloween festivities over the weekend.

Since I'm writing the first draft of this edition of StarGazer during a **Moon-Void-of-Course**-- and making innumerable errors-- it seems appropriate to discuss this astrological phenomenon. Moon Void occurs when the moon, our most rapidly moving luminary, moves between the last aspect it makes in one sign, and the first aspect it makes in the next sign. This occurs about **every 2 ½ days** and **can last from a minute to many hours**. Moon Void is not a good time to attempt anything of significance in the outer world-- things just don't go smoothly, and frequently need to be re-done. It's a fine time for routine tasks and inner work-- just postpone the important outer stuff. (Why would an astrologer start something during Moon Void?-- Well, I'm off task and should be working on something else, so it is a Moon VC thing) **Moon Void times for the next 30 days lasting an hour or more during the business day** (more or less) are **10/13 12:53 am - 6:06 pm PDT, 10/24 10:34 am - 11:30 am PDT, 10/25 5:03 pm - 10/26 4:23 pm PDT, 10/31 5:43 am - 10:01 am PST, and lovely Moon Void from 6:04 pm - 9:02 pm PST Election Day 11/7** to continue the confusion where Mercury leaves off as it turns direct. The simplest resource for Moon Void information day-by-day is the Llewellyn Astrological Pocket Planner: Daily Aspectarian from Llewellyn Publications at (800) THE-MOON, or www.llewellyn.com/bookstore/ under Calendars & Annuals. I keep one at home and one at the office.

One of the questions I'm asked most frequently by my clients is regarding **Fate vs. Free Will**. Here is my opinion: Nothing, other than a continuing series of lessons for soul growth, is fated. This is a free-will universe. Most of us can choose just about any world view, attitude, emotional state, behavior, interpretation, or response we want. (*Except maybe not to eat that chocolate in the cupboard!-- I'm still working on this.*) The planets offer us a valid symbolism for the energetic currents of the time-- allowing us the opportunity to attune ourselves and to choose to align ourselves with the Soul Plan unfolding in our lives-- or at least act in a more informed manner. This is why I say... **Timing is Everything and Knowledge is Power!** I believe that astrology is a Divine opportunity from God the All-That-Is to be more informed. (Of course, our inner Guidance is *very* good at this, too, *if* we're listening.....) With knowledge of current energies at work in our lives, we can choose to be **inner and proactive** with our lessons and opportunities, rather than **outer and reactive**. This way, we're dealing with our stuff internally instead of having stuff happen *to* us and this gives us (*the illusion at least*) of less randomness and more control of our lives. The inner reactions to planetary energies- and the outer events which can transpire- in the lives of those who are uninformed and not listening can be fairly predictable..... The myriad creative opportunities and responses to the planets generated by the informed and/or tuned-in are ***infinite!!!!***

Please e-mail me with any **questions** you would like to see addressed in future issues-- if you know anyone who might like to receive StarGazer, send me their e-address, and feel free to forward StarGazer to anyone you want-- don't forget **Astrology Gift Certificates during the holidays--** and, as always, I appreciate your **referrals** ----

Starlight Blessings and Love,
HelenA

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