



## April Newsletter

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## **Important April Dates**

(All times are CDT)

### **March 22, 12:30 am to April 15, 4:21 am – Mercury Retrograde**

The first Mercury retrograde for 2018 occurs entirely in fiery Aries. Mercury retrograde in Aries can bring some hot-hot-hot energy, as Aries is a high energy fire and cardinal sign. We can be more impulsive, impatient, wanting to jump into things without thinking, and this can get us in trouble quickly, or cause some unexpected problems because we didn't think things through, or didn't think at all! It's important to surrender to the impulsive energy, but we can feel like if we don't jump right away, we'll miss out, but it may not be reality. Breathe!

Aries energy can be prone to accidents and injuries because of the impulsive energy, so we may see some extra accidents occurring around the world, especially with things where we didn't do our due diligence beforehand. Don't neglect the things that need maintenance!

Aries is also one of the signs of war, so we may see some extra violence around the world, or an uprising somewhere, particularly with Uranus at the end of his time in Aries (though not aligning with Mercury during this retrograde, thankfully). Uranus will be at a critical degree in Aries (26 degrees) March 2nd - 22nd, so we may be heading into the retrograde with some extra rebellion.

We do need to be mindful of our tempers, getting into fights and easily frustrated, and an outlet for energy can be key during this retrograde. Keep busy, and focus on something positive to direct the extra energy that can flare up. Be careful of what you say so you don't start a war!

On the upside, the retrograde doesn't start or end making a hard aspect to any of the other planets, BUT the Moon isn't going to be playing nice! The retrograde kicks off with the Moon in one of the signs Mercury naturally rules, Gemini, and we can feel really off as it begins. Communication in particular, and anything to do with technology/electronics are affected. We need to watch what we say, do some more listening, and be mindful of the impact of our words. When the retrograde ends, the Moon will be in Aries, the sign of the retrograde, and a new moon occurs in Aries on the last day of the retrograde, April 15th. So we can close the retrograde with some extra heat, extra impulse, and extra anger that needs to be tempered, and extra energy that needs a healthy and positive outlet.

The Moon will be in the other sign Mercury naturally rules, Virgo, on March 28<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>. This can be another short period during the retrograde when we may have a little extra struggle with the retrograde energy, and it may be focused more on daily lives, productivity, work, and the health.

The most difficult time may come just after that, with the second full moon of the month - yep, March comes with another blue moon! This time on March 31st in Libra, which is the sign opposite Aries, the sign of the Mercury retrograde. The full moon will be opposite the Mercury retrograde (though a little wide), and square (hard aspect) Saturn in Capricorn (slightly wide square Mars in Capricorn too, though too wide to also be square Pluto, who is much later in Capricorn). That full moon is so jam-packed with energy that we need to be extra, extra careful with it. We need to find a way to use the energy without letting anything blow up - which might be difficult to avoid! We're missing a little Cancer action, so we need to work on bringing in

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some Cancer energy, and be more nurturing, supportive, giving comfort, and strengthening foundations. We need to come together emotionally, as one big family, and not get so lost in all of the external noise.

Mercury retrograde will be at a critical degree (13 degrees Aries) March 29<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>, and this may bring some difficult energy. We may super impulsive, annoyed, and easily provoked. It goes into the Libra full moon, so that is really a hard time during this retrograde.

### **April 15, 8:57 pm – New Moon**

We are finally in April—a month when we can (usually) expect things to go fast. April is the season of Aries, a powerful sign that knows how to get things started.

As the first sign of the zodiac ruled by Mars (the planet of action), Aries brings some ass-kicking qualities. Initiation, action, mobility, and power are words that come to mind when thinking of Aries. This makes April a time of full bore engagement, when aggressive goal setting takes center stage.

So the arrival of April means hallelujah, a time when we cultivate the wisdom of winter and step toward the manifestations of our future with fresh energy and direction. Fire, momentum, creativity, FUN, new vision, and new direction.

However, this year the astrological forecast indicates something slightly different. How so? Well for starters, the month kicks off with an Aries new moon on the 15<sup>th</sup>, which brings some surprising challenges. While this new moon boasts some prudent positives—it is a new moon in Aries after all—it also contains some adversarial components.

We can expect to feel this new moon inviting our bigger life visions, holding us accountable to seeing where we hold ourselves back. It may even deliver a punch-you-in-the-face piece of information that you needed to know (but were avoiding) so you can eloquently move forward. This potent new moon brings wild potential, but may feel a bit cranky, too.

Want to know how best use this new moon? To state it simply: Get Clear. Where are you heading? Why are you heading there? Is this in alignment with where you want to be? Identify your BIG. PICTURE. GOAL. Spell it out. And then make a commitment.

Next? Take action. Deliberate, intentional, fire-fueled action. This is not the time for mediocre execution. Nope. Use BOLD, forward moving action instead. Make it intentional.

The month is going to end with a super strong internal push. So don't hesitate now to claim your intended destination and hit the gas pedal—NOW. Use the fire, and burn rubber. Move it. Make it happen.

Don't worry. In a couple of weeks, you'll have plenty of time to integrate and refine. Until then, rise, own your voice, and take a stand for YOU. Mobilize the power of April. Don't hesitate.

## **April 22 – Earth Day**

### Gaia Healing Ritual

Arrange sea shells on a secluded beach, in the shape of a circle. If you do not have access to a beach, perform this ritual in a garden or forest using stones, branches or flowers to form the circle.

Kneel at the center facing the ocean. Light a blue candle and an incense of your choice. Raise arms high and recite:

"With smoke and flame this spell's begun.  
O Goddess of the stars, moon, and the sun,  
Let the healing power begin.  
Let the Earth be whole again."

"The Earth is my mother and I am her child.  
The earth is my lover, free and wild.  
Heal on the outside, heal within.  
Land and sea, fire and wind."

"With love sincere,  
I chant this prayer to make mankind  
Begin to care.  
Let every sister and every brother  
Heal the wounds of the Great Earth Mother."

"Let the healing power begin,  
Let the Earth be whole again.  
Heal on the outside, heal within.  
Land and sea, fire and wind.  
So mote it be!"

## **April 30, 7:58 am – Full Moon**

### Moonwort Moon

Under the shimmering light of the Full Moon in April, gardeners can look for the soft lavender flowers of the honesty plant. In time, these will mature into seed pods that give the plant another name—moonwort. These unique pods give the plant several other interesting names, like money plant and silver dollar plant. The pods dry to a brittle, flat circle that holds two seeds. French children learned to gently peel the outer casing from the seed pod to uncover the *monnaie du pape* (the pope's money). Pagans carry the seed pod in a wallet or use it in spells to attract money.

Honesty is a biennial. Once it blooms and sets seed, it's done. Late in the season when the plant begins to brown, pull it up and cut away the roots. Tie between four and six stems together. Hang these upside down in a dry, dark space with good air circulation to dry the pods. Gently rub the pod between the thumb and forefinger to remove the seed casing. Now you have an "everlasting," a delicate addition to a lovely dried flower arrangement.

~ JD Hortwort in *Llewellyn's Witches' Datebook 2018*

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Join the **Moon Water Challenge** from your own sacred space this Full Moon. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MoonWaterChallenge>

## **May 1 (Crossquarter May 5) – Beltane**

Beltane

**Animals/Mythical Creatures** – the white cow, goats, giants, rabbits, honey bees, faeries, satyrs, pegasus

**Gemstones** – emerald, orange carnelian, sapphire, rose quartz, lazuli, sapphire, yellow agate, bloodstone

**Incense/Oil** – passion flower, frankincense, tuberose, vanilla, lilac, rose

**Colors/Candles** – red & white (symbolizing God and Goddess), dark green, dark yellow, rainbow spectrum, blue, pastels, all colors

**Tools/Symbols/Decorations** – maypole & ribbons, flower crowns, fires, bowers, fields, May baskets, white flowers and ribbons, daisy chain, flower chaplet, white wine in clear crystal glass, chalice, butter churn, blackthorn & hawthorn branches, seasonal fruit

**Goddesses** – May Queen, Flora, Maia, Flower Goddesses, Lady of the Greenwood, Divine Couples, and Goddesses of the Hunt, Aphrodite(Greek) Blodewedd (Welsh), Erzulie (Voodun), Baubo (Greek)Rhea (Cretean), Prithvi (Hindu)

**Gods** – May King, Jack in the Green, Horned God (European), Herne (Greek), Green Man, Bel (Celtic), Baal (Phoenician), Gods of the Hunt,

**Essence** – compassion, youthful play, exuberance, sensuality, pleasure, action

**Dynamics/Meaning** – sacred marriage of the Lord and the Lady, arrival of the Tuatha de Dannan in Ireland

**Purpose** – fertility festival, celebrate 1st day of Celtic summer, 1st day of the light half of the year

**Rituals/Magick** – The Great Rite, love, romance & fertility magick, elf & faery power, offerings to elementals, crop blessings, relighting sacred fires, divination, building shrines, fire-calling, honoring house guardians, snake dancing, bathing faces in the morning dew of May to retain their youthful beauty

**Customs** – maypole erection, dancing around the maypole, bonfires, jumping fire, mating, picking flowers, making flower baskets, frolicking throughout the countryside, archery tournaments, sword dances, feasting, drinking and music, moving the herds to high pasture

**Foods** – dairy, honey, oats, red fruits, herbal salads, red/pink wine punch, large round oatmeal/barley cakes, sweets

**Herbs** – almond, angelica, damiana, hawthorn, hibiscus, saffron, ash tree, bluebells, cinquefoil, daisy, frankincense, hawthorn, ivy, lilac, marsh marigold, meadowsweet, primrose, roses, woodruff, yellow cowslip, yarrow

**Element/Gender** – air/male

**Threshold** – dawn

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get our Sabbats eBook at

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=129](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=129)

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## **Witchcraft Academy Online Witchcraft School**

[www.WitchcraftAcademy.com](http://www.WitchcraftAcademy.com)

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Pentacle Pendulum Essential Oil Diffuser - Regular Price \$29.99, Sale Price \$24.99

Love Spell Oil - Regular Price - \$9.99, Sale Price - \$8.99

Magickal Correspondences eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99

Lemon Chamomile Herbal Tea - Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price - \$4.99

Magickal Herbs Kit, 92 Herbs - Regular Price \$66.99, Sale Price \$59.99

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### Herb of the Month

**Basil** – Fire/Jupiter; Gender – Masculine; Parts Used - Flowery tops and leaves; Magickal Properties - Money and Riches, Protection, Love; Uses - Burn crushed powdered Basil while you announce your desire. You can also sprinkle a little on your person. Can be mixed with other herbs for protection and love

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at

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## Stone of the Month

**Amethyst** – Cool and relaxing, amethyst is a stone of psychic power. Wearing it helps promote meditation, peace, tranquility and oneness with your spiritual goals. It enhances and strengthens the powers of the bearer and helps attune with the higher self, dispelling fears, heightening intuition and helping to embrace your own intuitive wisdom. Amethyst enhances mental and emotional stability. It relieves depression and can help conquer unwanted habits and addictions, particularly alcoholism. It relieves stress and diseases associated with overindulgence such as gout. Amethyst is associated with the Crown and Third Eye chakras, and the astrological sign Pisces. Amethyst is a powerful protective stone and it guards against psychic attack.



## Rune of the Month

R

**Raidho** (R: Wagon or chariot.) – Travel, both in physical terms and those of lifestyle direction; A journey, vacation, relocation, evolution, change of place or setting; Seeing a larger perspective; Seeing the right move for you to make and deciding upon it; Personal rhythm, world rhythm, dance of life.

Raidho Reversed or Merkstave: Crisis, rigidity, stasis, injustice, irrationality; Disruption, dislocation, demotion, delusion, possibly a death.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at

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## Tarot Card of the Month

**The Wheel of Fortune** – The Wheel of Fortune is a sign of fates spinning round and round bringing in a new era. It represents the randomness of life and what comes at you. Positively associated with destiny, movement, vision, good luck, new cycle, and synchronicity. Negatively associated with obstacles, temporary bad luck, and unpleasant surprises.

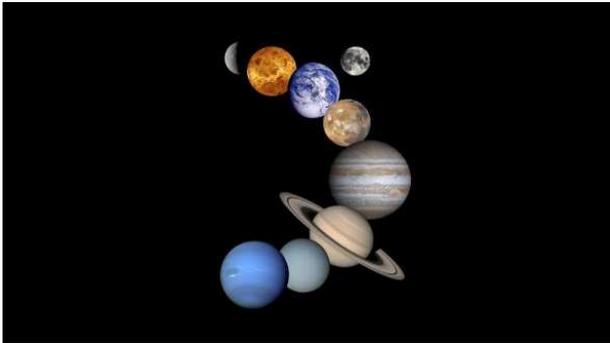


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## Correspondence of the Month



### Planetary Influences

**Sun** – power magick, health, prosperity, exorcism

**Moon** – intuition, dreams, psychic ability, female fertility

**Mars** – courage, energy, breaking negativity, physical strength

**Mercury** – divination, communications, knowledge, wisdom

**Jupiter** – happiness, luck, wealth, healing, male fertility, legal matters

**Venus** – love, sexual matters, marriage, friendship

**Saturn** – psychic ability, meditation, defense, communicating with spirits

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our Magickal Correspondences eBook at

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## Spell of the Month

### Star of Love Spell

Paper

Pen or pencil

Pink or red rose petals

Jasmine incense

Red candle

Red crystals, such as garnet, rose quartz or ruby



This spell should be performed on a clear night.

Arrange the items on your altar, then light the candle and incense. Think about what qualities are important to you in a mate and write them on the piece of paper. Take the flower petals and crystals outside with you, and look up at the stars. Choose one bright one and focus on its light and energy. Hold up the petals and stones to the star and repeat the following, three times:

“Star of love, burn so bright,  
aid me in my spell tonight.  
Unite my true love to me,  
as I will it, so mote it be.”

As you say the words, visualize the light from the star beaming down and filling the things in your hands. After saying the spell, return to your altar and place the flowers and crystals at the base of the candle. Focus on the candle flame, and repeat the words above another three times.

To receive more spells, get our Wicca 101 and Beyond: A Witch's Grimoire eBook at [http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=9&products\\_id=108](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=108)