



August Newsletter

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Important August Dates

(All times are CST)

August 1 - Lughnasadh (Crossquarter August 7)

Lughnasadh

Animals/Mythical Creatures - griffins, basilisks, roosters, calves, centaurs, phoenix

Gemstones - aventurine, citrine, peridot, sardonyx, yellow diamonds and citrine

Incense/Oil - wood aloe, rose, rose hips, rosemary, chamomile, eucalyptus, safflower, corn, passionflower, frankincense, sandalwood

Colors/Candles - red, orange, golden yellow, green, light brown, gold, bronze, gray

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - corn, cornucopias, red, yellow flowers, sheaves of grain (wheat, barley, oats), first fruits/vegetables of garden labor, corn dollies, baskets of bread, spear, cauldron, sickle, scythe, threshing tools, sacred loaf of bread, harvested herbs, bonfires, bilberries, God figures made of bread or cookie dough, phallic symbols

Goddesses - the Mother, Dana (Lugh's wife & queen), Tailltiu (Welsh-Scottish), Demeter (Greek), Ceres (Roman grain goddess honored at Ceresalia), the Barley Mother, Seelu (Cherokee), Corn Mother, Isis (Her birthday is celebrated about this time), Luna (Roman Moon Goddess), other agricultural Goddesses, the waxing Goddess

Gods - Lugh (Celtic, one of the Tuatha De Danaan), John Barleycorn, Arianrhod's golden haired son Lleu (Welsh God of the Sun & Corn where corn includes all grains, not just maize), Dagon (Phoenician Grain God), Tammuz/ Dummuzi (Sumerian), Dionysus, plus all sacrificial Gods who willingly shed blood/give their life that their people/lands may prosper, all vegetation Gods & Tanus (Gaulish Thunder God), Taranis, (Romano-Celtic Thunder God), Tina, (Etruscan-Thunder God), the waning God

Essence - fruitfulness, reaping, prosperity, reverence, purification, transformation, change, The Bread of Life, The Chalice of Plenty, The Ever-flowing Cup, the Groaning Board (Table of Plenty)

Dynamics/Meaning - Lugh's wedding to Mother Earth, Birth of Lugh; Death of Lugh, Celtic Grain Festival

Purpose - honoring the parent deities, first harvest festival, first fruits grains & drink to the Goddess in appreciation of Her bounty, offering loaves of sacred bread in the form of the God (this is where the Gingerbread Man originated!)

Rituals/Magick - astrology, prosperity, generosity, continued success, good fortune, abundance, magickal picnic, meditate & visualize yourself completing a project you've started

Customs - games, the traditional riding of poles/staves, country fairs, breaking bread with friends, making corn dollies, harvesting herbs for charms/rituals, Lughnasadh fire with sacred wood & dried herbs, feasting, competitions, Lammas towers (fire-building team competitions), spear tossing, gathering flowers for crowns, fencing/swordplay, games of skill, martial sports, chariot races, handfastings, trial marriages, dancing 'round a corn mother (doll)

Foods - loaves of homemade wheat, oat, & corn bread, barley cakes, corn, potatoes, summer squash, nuts, acorns, wild berries (any type), apples, rice, pears, berry pies, elderberry wine, crab apples, mead, crab, blackberries, meadowsweet tea, grapes, cider, beer

Herbs - grain, acacia, heather, ginseng, sloe, cornstalks, cyclamen, fenugreek, aloes, frankincense, sunflower, hollyhock, oak leaf, wheat, myrtle

Element/Gender - fire/female

Threshold - noon

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August 9, 10:08 pm - New Moon

New Moon in Leo

During this time please remember that Mercury is about to retrograde in Virgo, a rather Mutable sign on August 20, 2010 and its shadow period is 3 weeks before, during and after. This means some of you may already feel it as early as July 31, 2010 and as late as September 27, 2010. Therefore be very well prepared that everyone will be affected.

The New Moon gives us initiative to look around us. There is an urge to start something new, forcing us to even take baby steps if needed just to break the monotony of our daily routine. The new moon energy is perfect to make impulsive progress, making us certain to listen to our intuition. This energy will make us act or react from the heart and allow us to trust what ever happens if we must take a risk, live in the moment and make our own destiny. It's about chances, and expecting us to question what we want out of life, what we wish to make happen. The new moon gives us the strength to remain clam and even calmer when there are confrontations. But if you feel that you have to defend a certain situation, then you may become stubborn and you may not back down.

During this new moon you may want things to be peaceful. If you are into music, your talent will be appreciated. You may become the nurturer to many or even think about volunteering to help the less fortunate. But most of all your relationship with your mother may become diplomatic, serene and solid.

The Moon in Leo marks a time of objectivity and charisma. Ruled by the Sun, Leo creates an influence of tenderness, eagerness, and gratification. People may feel inspired, noble, and bighearted. It is a good time to pursue romance, be collective, and to help others. Like the Lion that symbolizes Leo, people may feel self-possessed but also yearn for admiration and acknowledgment. Care needs to be taken to avoid melodramatic displays to grab the limelight or control positions.

During the Moon in Leo, you may have an emotional need to shine and be eulogized by others. You may articulate your thoughts in a childlike manner - either lightheartedly or radically. You have a natural likeness with children. You have a knack for organizing and leading. You cultivate others by giving praise and encouraging them to be strong, bold and fearless. You view your mother as a regal, dramatic or prestigious person, and look for independence, warmth and strength in that relationship

The Leo energy can sometimes cause us to be more bigoted, obstinate, pompous, irritated, pompous, arrogant, patronizing and it's harder (but not impossible) to make changes or be flexible. Since the Moon is the closest 'Planet' to Earth, and this satellite literally zips around the Zodiac, completing its circuit in less than a month, it also touches us more deeply than most planets.

Through the guided transformation through the universal energy, we must understand change is never bad. In everything we do, we must do it with honor, respect and most of all good of all man kind as the Universe did for us. We can only hope that every change you make during this time is sublime bliss.

August 20, 2:59 pm through September 12, 6:09 pm - Mercury Retrograde

How will Mercury Retrograde will affect you? Read your astrological sign to find out.

Aries

Over work and taking on way too much can end up with you having to take a forced rest to recuperate. Play it safe and make sure there is a good doze of life balance present; otherwise long hours at the office as well as partying to dawn can take its toll. Don't get yourself all wound up worry about things that are probably not even within your control.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: When inspiration strikes, make sure you are ready to record your thoughts. Be careful of only looking at the large picture and overlooking details. Aries are known to make rash decisions and in a Mercury retrograde time, it can lead to making irreversible errors. It is best to keep your strong opinions to yourself during this time and do more listening than talking.

Taurus

Be careful of taking people for granted over this period. Just when you think you have life all worked out and have a strategy to get anyone to do just about anything, your plans can change in a moment. Don't gamble with life, this is a time to be sensible and serious as well as be upfront with the people who are close to you.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: As a Taurean, you're known to have a good level of common sense, but with Mercury retrograde present, this all of a sudden disappears. Prepare to double check your communications; it's possible to miss important data over this time. Also, your innate stubborn traits can take on a whole new dimension, be flexible.

Gemini

Anything to do with your family home, children or the domestic area of your life can come unstuck during this time. Don't assume anything; if you are unsure of someone's movements then take the time to get the facts. Make sure your house is locked and secure. This is a good time to have a spare set of keys with a neighbor or friend.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are able to solve complex problems where others are still trying to figure out first base, and as Mercury is your ruling planet, you in a better position than most. However, you can become distracted and go off on tangents, so there's a need to stay focused on what's important. Beware of being a know-it-all, and be prepared to learn from others.

Cancer

Keep your day-planner flexible, as plans can change in an instant. When there is chaos and confusion around you, there is no point digging your heels in and insisting that it's business as usual. You may as well go with the energy and go into manic management mode. If someone needs to take control, then you're the person to do it!

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: Over this period, Cancer's already compassionate nature is intensified. You have the ability to understand other people's position and help them gain a level of understanding. Be careful of expecting too much from people and becoming resentful when they don't meet your expectations.

Leo

Anything to do with finances, possessions or property is affected during this period. You can expect delays, and mix-ups, some small and some grand. You can do what you can to avoid disruption to your life by having your business matters under control, but then there are the things other people do that are out of your control and this is when all mayhem can break loose.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are a natural conversationalist and can be entertaining and humorous with an ability to be an inspiring public speaker. Be careful over this period not to be too dogmatic and insisting that others agree with your opinions. After all, you are known to be just a tad bossy, and this side can turn ugly if you're not careful.

Virgo

With Mercury retrograde in your sign for the whole out of phase period, don't be surprised if you feel just a little out of sorts and at times uncomfortable in your own skin. You will need to do everything you can to keep your energies balanced, and that means not working around the clock like a mad-persona and doing something nice for yourself every single day!

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: Being an analytical and organized person, you have an eye for details. You take pride in your work and can discuss just about any topic with just about anyone. Mercury is your ruling planet, so in many ways you are more in line with the energies than other people, but you can still feel like your world has been tipped upside down during this period and it's important not to assume anything.

Libra

Beware of being in too much of a hurry to check the facts and figures, particularly of anything that is written like an article, letter, email and particularly anything that pertains to an official type document. Even if you have to check the fine print three times, it will be worth the effort. Also be careful of passing on important jobs and errands to others who may not share your level of urgency or professionalism.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: As a Libran you have a heart of gold and are therefore friends no matter what, and you do have a good listening ear, you like to fix things for people. However, when Mercury is retrograde, there's a need to be careful you don't over step your mark as it could be seen as interfering instead of helpful.

Scorpio

Don't even think of keeping a secret from your nearest and dearest or close friends. Even if it's something he or she doesn't need to know, if you leave out a few pertinent details, it could be seen as hiding something. Also, keep in mind that having your say and putting across your view point strongly during this period could alienate people. Be open minded enough to listen to other people's opinions even if you do agree to disagree.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are a good investigator, Scorpio, however when you really want to get to the bottom of something, you can in fact end up being your own worst enemy, not knowing when to give up and let go. Beware of becoming nasty when not everyone sees life through your eyes.

Sagittarius

Anything to do with business will be under the microscope. If you are in meetings or finalizing discussions, make sure you double check the arrangement so everyone is on the same page. It's important over his period to take extra care with backing up your work electronically.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You're a freedom lover and need to have the flexibility to move when you have the desire to do so. When you are held back and boxed in over a Mercury retrograde period, you can become withdrawn with feelings of being trapped, instead of strategically working your way out of a tricky situation.

Capricorn

If you are traveling, check and double check the arrangements. Also, make sure you have everything you need packed in your suitcase, and it's a must to label your luggage well. Make sure to allow for delays. Whether it's planes, trains, automobiles or subways, anything to do with travel can be altered. Look out for opportunities to learn something new. There are valuable lessons to be learned during this period.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: Being a business minded person, makes you very efficient and talented at what you do. You are generally organized and productive, but when Mercury goes retrograde, you can go off on tangents and lose control of your day planner. Beware of other people wanting to take control. When you are not balanced within yourself, you can become grumpy and serious.

Aquarius

Be careful if taking someone's throw away comments personally. It probably has nothing to do with you. You just happen to be in the firing line. Money matters can be confusing, and something you've been promised can be delayed. Take life in your stride and see what happens. What's delayed over this period can right itself without any effort from you or anyone else.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are a highly intellectual sign and often can't understand why other people can't keep up with your thinking speed. Be careful of being intolerant of anyone who is not on the same page as you because when you get irritable you can cut someone down with a look and a few acid words, causing damage that may not be easily patched up.

Pisces

You could be in for a roller coaster love ride with communication between you and another getting totally out of hand. This is one of those periods where no matter what you say, it only gets worse. Sometimes, it's best to say nothing or very little. Let's just say, this is not the best time to tackle a long standing sensitive issue.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: As a Piscean, your imagination is awesome. You like to be positive and gravitate to people who have an optimistic outlook on life. At the best of times, you do not take criticism well and over this period, you are particularly vulnerable to other people's opinions of you and what you do. This in turn can lead you to cutting ties with people who have the potential to hurt you on an emotional level.

August 24, 12:05 pm - Full Moon

Corn Moon

To the Cherokee, August is the Fruit moon. Some cane berries have a second ripening period at this time. Many tree fruits also ripen in August, including peaches, plums and the earliest "dessert" apples. In Choctaw tradition, this is the Women's Moon, a time for feminine mysteries and ceremonies. The Dakota Sioux refer to this as the Moon When All Things Ripen. Most vegetables that haven't already matured begin to yield. many wild plants also set their seeds and fruits. The early grains ripen too.

August marks the seasonal shift. Growth slows and changes focus from expansion to condensation as plants and animals prepare for the end of the growing season. Root crops store energy. Animals gorge on abundant food to put on fat for winter. People spend hours harvesting and preserving food.

Rituals in August may acknowledge it as the first of the harvest months, with September and October to follow. Some myths focus on sacrificed gods and grain gods, who die so that others may live. Magickally, work spells for good weather and good harvests. Work to strengthen community ties in your coven or other magickal/spiritual group.

~ Elizabeth Barrette

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Witch SuperCenter August Sale Items

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Magickal Herb Kit, 45 Herbs – Regular Price \$26.99, Sale Price \$24.99

Dream Interpretation eBook – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

Herbal Dream Tea – Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price \$4.99

Ritual Blades – 10% off select blades -

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Herb of the Month

Parsley - Earth/Mars, Gender - Masculine, Parts Used - Seeds and Leaves, Magickal Properties - Healing and Vitality, Uses - Call the power of the Elements of Earth and drink as an infusion. Restores a sense of well-being. Used for increasing strength and vitality after surgery or sickness, adds new life to "in-a-rut" situations, can be added to other healing herbs to quicken the wish.

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Stone of the Month

Kunzite - Turns loving thoughts into loving communications, removes obstacles, provides protection from unwanted energies, assists in meditation and centering. It has the interesting ability to absorb sunlight or artificial light and then give it off in the dark. Use it to relieve stress as well as to elicit feelings of love, compassion, and good will towards others.

Due to its high lithium content, kunzite may also be used to balance certain biochemical disorders such as schizophrenia and manic depression.

Energy: Receptive, Planet: Venus, Pluto, Element: Earth, Powers: Grounding, peace, relaxation, Magical Uses: Calming and soothing stress and emotions, Hold or wear to induce relation, Soothes tense muscles, Removes pressure during work, or traffic snarls, Induces peace and harmony, Removes anger, fear, or nervousness, Grounding stone, Useful for attracting love.

Rune of the Month

↻ **Jera** (J or Y: A year, a good harvest.) - The results of earlier efforts are realized. A time of peace and happiness, fruitful season. It can break through stagnancy. Hopes and expectations of peace and prosperity. The promise of success earned. Life cycle, cyclical pattern of the universe. Everything changes, in its own time. Jera Merkestave (Jera cannot be reversed, but may lie in opposition): Sudden setback, reversals. A major change, repetition, bad timing, poverty, conflict.

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Tarot Card of the Month

Three of Cups - a card of celebration and accomplishment. The three young maidens dance in a circle with their golden goblets upraised in a toast of joy. Their arms reach out to each other to connect their feelings (cups). In many settings, women create and nurture the social glue that bonds people together. These dancing women are a symbol of coming together in love. The ground is covered with fruit and there is a general sense of abundance and happiness. Each woman in the Three of Cups has a wreath on their head, each with different colored eyes. Brown-haired maiden, blue eyes has a wreath of pink pansies, spring. Blonde-haired maiden has green eyes with a hydrangea wreath, summer. The black-haired maiden had brown eyes with a Yule wreath with berries. There is a table in front of them, with three Chalices, and half eaten fruit. They are wearing beautiful robes.

The helping of others in a time of need, a good work atmosphere, a good friendship, accomplishments with the support of such friendship. To know the Three of Cups is to know new things that regard the emotions. All around a good card where money, relationship, work, and spirituality are concerned. The cups overflow with these qualities. The oneness of friends. Good fortune in love. Happy conclusion of an undertaking. Querent is sensitive and sympathetic to others.

The Three of Cups indicates the end or conclusion of any problems in the past. A compromise will be found which will serve all the interests of those involved in a struggle. There will be time to relax after the compromise is implemented. Since you will be unable to control external conditions, you will realize that you must change internally, and will want to revise your attitude and the way you react or deal with what is happening. Realize what it is you're striving for or what you want to represent and know the supply will meet the demand. Whatever you choose will be the right choice.

The number three typically suggests the initial completion of a project or venture and the successful initial fulfillment of a goal. However, despite the completion or satisfaction offered by the number three, this card also suggests a new beginning; the celebration is only the start of a long and possibly difficult journey.

You need to feel filled with gratitude for life's gifts and to celebrate with those you care about. Pay attention to the quality of your food and drink. This is a time when enjoying yourself is as important as working hard.

Reversed Three of Cups Meaning

In relationship readings, the Three of Cups reversed nearly always indicates a third person is involved, and typically, it is the querent who is that third person. When you see this card in a reading, look to the other cards in the reading also - if you see the Seven of Swords, there is a likely betrayal of trust and getting away with something; if you see the Five of Swords, it is likely that the querent already knows about the other relationship but is trying to ignore that it exists; if you see the Devil, think carefully about the nature of the relationships - they are likely to be hedonistic and generally unhealthy to those involved. Alternatively, the reversed Three of Cups can indicate that creativity is being stifled and instead you are being forced to conform.

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Correspondence of the Month

Time of the Day

Sunrise - purification, business, success, study, travel, employment, breaking habits, guilt, jealousy, healing disease, conscious mind

Noon - magickal energy, physical energy, strength, protection, money, courage

Sunset - breaking addictions, weight loss, banishing, misery, pain, anguish, negative habits

Night - beauty, dreams, psychic dreams, awareness, sex, spirituality, purification, love, friendship, peace, releasing stress

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Spell of the Month

Harvest Ritual

East – Spirits of Air, the gentle breezes that make the fields dance, bring the cool morning breeze and inspire us to reap what we have sown. Hail and welcome, Spirits of Air!

South – Spirits of Fire, the warmth and strength of the summer sun, bring forth the hot, sultry season and prepare us to reap what we have sown. Hail and welcome, Spirits of Fire!

West – Spirits of Water, rivers and streams that fed the harvest, bring the warm rains that nourish the fields and encourage us to reap what we have sown. Hail and welcome, Spirits of Water!

North – Spirits of Earth, from the fertile fields to the cool woodlands, bring the beauty of ripe, golden fields and guide us to reap what we have sown. Hail and welcome, Spirits of Earth!

Great Goddess, Mother of all, you provide us with seed for sowing, you reward us with fields for reaping. Bring forth upon the labored land sprouted legions of the staff of life. We rejoice before you for these fruits of the fields. May your intuitive wisdom be with us. Hail and welcome Great Mother Goddess!

Great God, Father of all, your energy is poured forth into the body of Mother Earth whose fruitful bounty will nourish our lives. Bring forth your brilliance, strength, and vitality, for you are the vital half of the life force which brings completeness. May we carry your brightness always within. Hail and welcome Great Father God!

As the wheel turns yet another notch, we gather with those we love to celebrate the harvest. This is a time of abundance and a time we will reap what we have sown. As in all things, the Sun teaches us that for each new life a thing must die

As each day passes, shorter than the last
may we each be reminded of the seasons that have passed
the marriage and the seeding of the Goddess back in May
her womb swollen with life anew at Summer Solstice Day
all this time the Father Sun has shone with so much pride
rising early and setting late
and now that he's supplied the warmth and light to bring to bear
the Goddess and the lands He knows that his death is drawing near
but this secret he understands
that with the turning of the wheel, his rebirth has been planned

Often, we are faced with sacrifices that we must make. We come to realize that something we have must be given to others in order to open space within lives and souls for new growth. So look inside yourselves and see what there is that no longer works for you, what it is that you must sacrifice in order to move forward and survive the cold hard months ahead.

I offer you all the burdens of my heart.

CAKES & ALE

Now upon our humble hearth, gifts we offer the Two that are One
Truly blessed are we that receive the bounty of the harvest
Blessed be our Mother Earth
Blessed be our Father Sun
as he teaches us of life, death, and rebirth
I honor Thee, the Two that are One

As all good things must sometimes end
go forth with the love the Goddess sends
for if your heart is always true
this circle will come back to you
Blessed be!

Great Goddess, Mother of all, thank you for this special awareness we have received from your intuitive wisdom within. Thank you for your blessings. Hail and farewell Great Mother Goddess!

Great God, Father of all, thank you for your vital energy within, through you we can now understand the true nature of sacrifice. Thank you for your blessings. Hail and farewell Great Father God!

East - Spirits of Air, the gentle breezes that make the fields dance, leave us with your tender touch, a kiss of breeze upon our face. Hail and farewell Spirits of Air!

North - Spirits of Earth, from the fertile fields to the cool woodlands, leave us with the commitment to renew and restore our lovely Earth. Hail and farewell Spirits of Earth!

West - Spirits of Water, rivers and streams that fed the harvest, leave us with gentle rains that nourish the Earth and ourselves. Hail and farewell Spirits of Water!

South - Spirits of Fire, the warmth and strength of the summer sun, leave us with the warmth of good friendship and the spark of true love. Hail and farewell Spirits of Fire!

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