



August Newsletter

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Important August Dates

(All times are CDT)

July 26, 12:02 am to August 18, 11:25 pm – Mercury Retrograde

Mercury retrograde 2018 starts on August 26 at 23° Leo and ends on August 19 at 11° Leo. Mercury retrograde August 2018 could be an upsetting time because of unexpected changes making you nervous and angry. Stationary Mercury retrograde makes no planetary aspects and no fixed star conjunctions. But a very challenging T-square aspect pattern on that day between the Sun, Mars and Uranus will exacerbate the standard Mercury retrograde problems like communication misunderstanding and the breakdown of mechanical and electrical machines.

Mercury retrograde August 2018 comes with an increased risk of arguments, conflict and accidents. Use common sense, caution and patience to avoid rash actions, over reactions and risk taking. Be ready for the unexpected by staying open-minded and flexible. This will make it easier to adjust your plans in response to changing circumstances. Mercury direct has a very calming influence that will return harmony to your relationships and your life in general.

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), Tailtiu (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/ Dummuza (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 dollys, 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

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

August 11, 4:58 am – New Moon, Solar Eclipse

New Moon August 2018 at 18 degrees Leo is a partial solar eclipse. This solar eclipse is mainly influenced by a conjunction to Mercury retrograde. The major themes of this eclipse will be thinking, contemplation, deliberation, discussion and debate.

The August 2018 solar eclipse with challenging aspects to Jupiter and Pluto suggests disagreements and arguments about ideas and beliefs about power and control issues between people, groups of people and nations. Asteroid Pallas conjunct the eclipse will focus debate on feminism and politics.

The solar eclipse joins a star of command and domination that increases your power to get on in life. Asteroid Pallas gives courage and fighting spirit, but also the creative intelligence and wisdom to deliberate to find the truth before passing judgement and taking action.

The solar eclipse is also joined by Mercury retrograde which really is the strongest influence on the eclipse. Altogether this means a lot of thinking, discussion and arguments about power and control issues in relationships. There will be provocative statements and insults from both sides of the debate about power imbalances and the abuse of power by people in positions of authority.

Mercury retrograde suggests it would be better to carefully listen and think about your own ideas and attitudes before giving your opinion. The exaggerating influence of Jupiter means boastfulness and pride could lead to embarrassment and loss. Jupiter rules philosophy so this solar eclipse will promote a battle of ideas and beliefs. The difficult aspect to Pluto complicates debate with lies and propaganda, conspiracy theories, investigations and espionage.

Pallas conjunct the solar eclipse new moon may focus your thoughts on the relationship between father and daughter. The tense aspect to Pluto will highlight power and control issues in such relationships. And for women, how that has influenced your beliefs and attitudes about men in general.

August 26, 6:56 am – Full Moon

Parsley Moon

When parsley is gathered under a Full Moon, Venus is said to smile upon the gatherer and to bestow a blessing in affairs of love. The plant's association with amour was once so strong, gardeners were urged not to cut it with a blade, lest they also cut down their love. This is such a sweet tale, it's hard to imagine parsley is also associated with death. Greeks once used it to make wreaths for their dead and to decorate tombs. They believed parsley was a favorite of Persephone, who would guide the soul on its journey through the underworld. The leaf is most often used in magick. However, grind parsley root for a purifying bath or for use in spells to stop misfortune.

In the garden, dwarf forms of parsley can edge the walkway while larger varieties can grace the back of the border. Once up, this biennial is very resilient, providing plenty of foliage in the first year and a good supply in year two before it bolts to flower and seed. Why does it take parsley so long to sprout? Early Christians thought the plant had to go to hell and back nine times to get the devil's permission to grow.

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

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You can get recipes, updates when we add new products, announcements of local events and more. Follow us at <https://twitter.com/WitchSC>

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Witchcraft Academy Online Witchcraft School

www.WitchcraftAcademy.com

Our Year and a Day Class covers most of the basics of Witchcraft. Each month, you will receive a package of Witchcraft Tools you will use to complete that month's 4 lessons. The



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link to the lessons will be emailed to you and sent with your package each month.

"I love getting my package each month. It's so convenient to have the supplies I need for the lessons mailed right to my house." Sherry P., Witchcraft Academy Student

...the first month package includes:

A dip pen
Magickal Ink
13 pages of linen paper
4 quarter candles
The Wiccan Rede on linen paper

...the first month lessons are:

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Spell Writing
The Elements
Intent & Manipulating Energy

Each month for 12 months, a new package will arrive at your home and 4 new lessons will arrive in your email inbox. All for only \$25 a month. Please visit our web site for more details. www.WitchcraftAcademy.com

Witch SuperCenter August Sale Items

Tie Dye Pentacle Tote Bag - Regular Price \$14.99, Sale Price \$11.99
Large Sage Smudge Stick - Regular Price - \$11.99, Sale Price - \$9.99
Magickal Herbs eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99
Herbal Headache Tea - Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price - \$4.99
Magickal Herbs Kit, 92 Herbs - Regular Price \$66.99, Sale Price \$59.99

To see all of our sale items, visit

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=specials

Herb of the Month



Bay – Fire/Mercury; Gender – Masculine; Parts Used - Leaves and Wood
Magickal Properties - Divination, Protection, Purification, Justice and Sleep/Dreams; Uses - Burn the fresh leaves for divination, hang up at the highest point in the home for protection or burn and let the smoke hit the four corners of a room for purifying and cleansing of negative energies. Place in a dream pillow for safe sound sleep or with other herbs for psychic dreams.

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

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=120

Stone of the Month

Malachite - This powerful healing stone works to heal the heart as well as the body. It is further used for money, love and for centering and balancing. It enhances our ability to nurture all Life. Use it to manifest prosperity into your life and to open your heart to others. Malachite is one of the few stones that can be used to clear and activate all Chakras. It has wonderful healing properties, and because of the high copper content of the stone it has a very steady pulsing electromagnetic energy field. It absorbs negative energy from the auric field cleansing it, thus balancing the wearer and protecting them from the effects negative energies. It is great for increasing ones concentration skills and is quite beneficial to one's physical, as well as psychic, vision. Malachite helps to find a balanced path between the desires of ego and of our higher Will, aiding us in removing blockages and inspiring us with ideas which will help to manifest those goals.



Rune of the Month



Thurisaz (TH: Thor or a Giant.) – Reactive force, directed force of destruction and defense, conflict; Instinctual will, vital eroticism, regenerative catalyst; A tendency toward change; Catharsis, purging, cleansing fire; Male sexuality, fertilization. (Thor, the Thunder god, was of Giant stock.) Thurisaz Reversed or Merkstave: Danger, defenselessness, compulsion, betrayal, dullness; Evil, malice, hatred, torment, spite, lies; A bad man or woman.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=124

Tarot Card of the Month

The Fool - The fool is the fearless traveler; He leaps before he looks and speaks before he thinks; Positively associated with innocence, new beginnings, joy, fearlessness, and spontaneity; Negatively associated with thoughtlessness, immaturity, impulsiveness, lack of responsibility and lawlessness.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at



http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=107

Correspondence of the Month

Time of 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

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

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=118

Spell of the Month

Book of Shadows Consecration

The Book of Shadows is your own personal journal, so to speak. In it, write down spells and rituals and ceremonies you collect. In the beginning, record the basic rituals of spell binding, casting a circle, etc. After more practice and study, start creating your own rituals.

Your Book of Shadows can be anything. I have several large, three ring binders. I find it easy to add to them and reorganize them as I receive more information. Some people prefer more elaborate ones like hard-backed black books with "Book of Shadows" engraved on the cover in gold. Everyone has a different type of book. You can make your own from recycled paper and decorate the cover. You can use a plain journal bought from a store, it's up to you.

The Book of Shadows is a sacred thing. Think of it as your Craft Bible. Do not let anyone outside of your coven or trusted group of friends use or look at your book.

By purifying and blessing your Book, you are also blessing everything you write in it from this day forth.

Arrange to perform this ritual during a waxing moon (the time between a New Moon and a Full Moon). Cast a circle and place your Book of Shadows on the altar or on the floor in the center of the circle. Sit in front of it facing NORTH.

Visualize a beam of light shining down from the Heavens, and a beam of light from the top of your head, meeting as one. (If this is a group ritual, visualize a cone of light rising from the group.)

Pick up the book and take it to the NORTH.
"I consecrate this Book of Shadows,
With EARTH so that it may be a fitting repository
For my magickal energy."
Pass the book over the salt dish three times.

Say this each time at all the points, replacing EARTH with AIR, WATER, and FIRE. In the WEST, pass the book over the bowl of water. In the SOUTH, pass over the candle (be careful not to burn your book!), and in the EAST, blow on the book.

Place the book on the altar and continue visualization. Slowly lower this cone of energy until it is absorbed into the book. Say:
"I consecrate this Book of Shadows with SPIRIT.
So that it may be a fitting repository
For my magickal energy.
So Mote It Be."

Open the circle in the usual way. Your Book of Shadows is now ready for use!

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