



December Newsletter

In this Issue

Important December Dates
Great Gift Ideas
New Items at Witch SuperCenter
Witch SuperCenter December Sale Items
Herb of the Month – Mullein
Stone of the Month – Cat's Eye
Rune of the Month – Raidho
Tarot Card of the Month – Two of Cups
Correspondence of the Month – Day of the Week
Spell of the Month – Witches' Protection Bottle

Important December Dates

(All times are CDT)

December 2, 1:30 am - Full Moon

The Oak Moon

The oak symbolizes earthly and spiritual strength, with its roots running deep and branches reaching high and wide. While the sacred oak appears dead this time of year, we know there is much more to life than can be seen by the eyes. The strong oak reminds us to stand tall and endure, as the Sun's return draws near. We too have grown strong as we journey through the dark and look to our spiritual roots for answers.

Take this time to prepare small gifts for loved ones. These dark months were times of great scarcity to our ancestors, so even the smallest gifts were precious. Share your treasures, for when the above earth looks dead and dark, the roots shelter the life within. Offer these gifts as symbols of good will, peace, protection and love, strengthening the relationships that sustain us.

*Long Nights Moon, Big Winter Moon, Moon of Popping Trees,
Strong Oak wisdom rooted within me,
Ixchel, Athene, Minerva, Fates,
In the darkness, we faithfully await.*

~ Dallas Jennifer Cobb

December 16, 6:02 am - New Moon

New Moon in Sagittarius

New vision, new insight, and new philosophy in life ...this is now being presented to us to explore. This is an excellent time to gather with friends or a study group to discuss religions and new philosophical awareness

The new moon in Sagittarius urges us to take chances, to explore new territories and keep an optimistic attitude. For some of us, a new business venture may come to mind, others may decide to study the higher mystery of life, or some will start a plan for an around the world journey. We are talking about "BIG" ideas, the larger picture, and far vision. There's indeed a timely blessing for those who made an effort to plan ahead. Do watch your choice of words! "A sharp tongue can cut a human's heart deeper than a steel sword."

Have a Blessed New Moon in Sagittarius!

Candles: Deep Blue, unscented

Oils: Clove or Blessings Oil

Incense: Saffron

Gemstone: Amethyst

May the Great Spirit of Abundance continue to guide me in the path of kindness and generosity. And, may I learn to express my gratitude with inspiring gentle words.

So shall it be!

December 21, 11:47 pm - Winter Solstice/Yule

Yule

Animals/Mythical Creatures - Yule goat (Nordic), reindeer stag, squirrels, Yule cat, Sacred White Buffalo, Kallikantzaroi-ugly chaos monsters (Greek), trolls, phoenix, Yule elf, jule gnome, squirrels, wren/robin

Gemstones - cat's eye, ruby, diamond, garnet, bloodstone

Incense/Oils - bayberry, cedar, ginger, cinnamon, pine, rosemary, frankincense, myrrh, nutmeg, wintergreen, saffron

Colors/Candles - gold, silver, red, green, white

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - bayberry candles, evergreens, holly, mistletoe, poinsettia, lights, gifts, Yule log, Yule tree, spinning wheels, wreaths, bells, mother & child images

Goddesses - Great Mother, Befana (Strega), Holda (Teutonic), Isis (Egyptian), Triple Goddess, Mary (Christian), Tonazin (Mexican), Lucina (Roman), St. Lucy (Swedish), Bona Dea (Roman), Mother Earth, Eve (Hebrew), Ops (Roman Holy Mother), the Snow Queen, Hertha (German), Frey (Norse)

Gods - Sun Child, Saturn (Roman), Cronos (Greek), Horus/Ra (Egyptian), Jesus (Christian-Gnostic), Mithras (Persian), Balder (Norse), Santa Claus/Odin (Teutonic), Holly King, Sol Invicta, Janus (God of Beginnings), Marduk (Babylonian) Old Man Winter

Essence - honor, rebirth, transformation, light out of darkness, creative inspiration, the mysteries, new life, regeneration, inner renewal, reflection/introspection

Dynamics/Meaning - death of the Holly (winter) King; reign of the Oak (summer) King, begin the ordeal of the Green Man, death & rebirth of the Sun God; night of greatest lunar imbalance; sun's rebirth; shortest day of year

Purpose - honor the Triple Goddess, welcome the Sun Child

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Rituals/Magick - personal renewal, world peace, honoring family & friends, Festival of light, meditation
Customs - lights, gift-exchanging, singing, feasting, resolutions, new fires kindled, strengthening family & friend bonds, generosity, Yule log, hanging mistletoe, apple wassailing, burning candles, Yule tree decorating; kissing under mistletoe; needfire at dawn vigil; bell ringing/sleigh-bells; father Yule
Foods - nuts, apple, pear, caraway cakes soaked with cider, pork, orange, hibiscus or ginger tea, roasted turkey, nuts, fruitcake, dried fruit, cookies, eggnog, mulled wine
Herbs - blessed thistle, evergreen, moss, oak, sage, bay, bayberry, cedar, pine, frankincense, ginger, holly, ivy, juniper, mistletoe, myrrh, pinecones, rosemary, chamomile, cinnamon, valerian, yarrow
Element/Gender - earth/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

December 25 - Christmas

Holiday Blessings

Blessings to you from the Earth Mother
She is the Moon
She watches over all of us by
The light that she casts over the blessed earth
Walk her night lit path
And happiness you will find at every turn
Blessed be!

Blessings to you from the Sky Father.
He is the Sun. He holds us up
And brings us strength. Carry his sword
To cleave the evil from your path
And you will be unmolested
Blessed Be!

Blessings to you from the Great Spirit
It binds us all together
Man to woman; beast to beast; all
We are it and it is us.
Blessed Be!

May you have a wonderful Holiday
The time has come for the sun to be reborn
He lies in his Mother's womb waiting...
Awaiting his reappearance on this plane
Let us all rejoice in his rebirth and ours
Blessed Be!

~ Yusef

December 26, 8:38 am until January 13, 10:52 am - Mercury Retrograde

At 8:38 am CDT, on Saturday, December 26th, 2009, Mercury the wise communicator turns retrograde at 21°46' Capricorn, in the sign of the Sea-Goat, sending communications, travel, appointments, mail and the www into a general snarlup! The retro period begins some days before the actual turning point (as Mercury slows) and lasts for three weeks or so, until Jan. 13, 2010, when the Winged Messenger reaches his direct station. At this time he halts and begins his return to direct motion through the zodiac.

Everything finally straightens out on February 4, as he passes the point where he first turned retrograde. Mercury normally turns retrograde three times a year, but this year he turns tail four times, which is unusual. The effects of each period differ, according to the sign in which it happens.

A planet is described as retrograde when it appears to be moving backwards through the zodiac. According to modern science, this traditional concept arises in the illusory planetary motion created by the orbital rotation of the earth with relation to other planets in our solar system. Planets are never actually retrograde or stationary, they just seem that way due to this cosmic shadow-play.

Retrograde periods, although often problematic for us earthlings, are not particularly uncommon. Each planet retrogrades, except the Sun and Moon. Although a powerful astrological influence, Mercury is quite a small planet that travels at a relatively fast speed through the zodiac. Despite being the closest planet in our solar system to the Sun, he is not always in the same sign as the Sun. This time, Mercury turns retrograde in Capricorn (ambition; loyalty) while the Sun is in Capricorn, but the Sun moves into Aquarius (original; unorthodox) on Jan. 20 while Merc, having just turned direct, is still in Capricorn; however, Mercury soon speeds up, heading back to join the Sun in Aquarius on Feb. 10.

As a rule, retrograde planets mark a period of seemingly inevitable or fated events that relate to their sphere of influence. Unresolved issues from the past tend to rear their heads. Retro phases present us with a series of events over which we seem to have little or no conscious control, relating especially to the sign in which the retrogradation occurs. For example, last time Mercury retrograde in Libra (relationships; tastes; harmony) awakened quite different sets of circumstances from those generated when he retrograded into Virgo (analysis; critical ability).

A retrograde period is best seen as a cycle, beginning when a planet begins to slow to a halt before traveling backwards through the zodiac, and ending when it returns to the point where it first paused. However, during the cycle, a planet's energy is most powerful (and more likely to generate critical events of universal importance) when the planet makes a station: appearing motionless in the sky.

These stationary periods occur near the beginning of the cycle (when the planet first halts as it prepares to move backwards) and midway through the cycle when the retrograde planet slows to a stop before moving forward again. The direct station (when the planet halts before moving forward again) is the most powerful and can be used for maximum benefit.

Many astrologers consider that the "Mercury Shadow" begins between two and three weeks before the actual retro station, so the "shadow phase" begins on December 9, when Mercury passes the point of direct station for the first time in this cycle. This has some justification, but it is more possible that the really noticeable peculiarities begin when Mercury slows significantly, a few days before the retro station. This period of "Mercury Shadow" extends to the Return date, something under three weeks after the direct station. Bear this in mind, because experience shows that the effects of the retro period are still marked during the shadow phase. Some of the most characteristic annoyances often occur just after Mercury makes the direct station, while he is crawling forward before picking up speed.

In general, Mercury rules thinking and perception, processing and disseminating information and all means of communication, commerce, education and transportation. By extension, Mercury rules people who work in these areas, especially those who work with their minds or their wits: writers and orators, commentators and critics, gossips and spin doctors, teachers, travelers, tricksters and thieves.

Mercury retrograde gives rise to personal misunderstandings; flawed, disrupted, or delayed communications, negotiations and trade; glitches and breakdowns with phones, computers, cars, buses, and trains. And all of these problems usually arise because some crucial piece of information, or component, has gone astray or awry. It is not exactly wise to make important decisions while Mercury is retrograde, since it is likely that such decisions will be clouded by misinformation, poor communication and careless thinking. Mercury is all about mental clarity and the power of the mind, so when Mercury is retrograde these intellectual characteristics tend to be less acute than usual, as the critical faculties are dimmed. Make sure you pay attention to the small print!

The key issue here is one of focus. Mercury's retro phase tends to bring unforeseen changes and blockages, but the aggravation and frustration that many of us experience during these periods is often due to our own inability to roll with the punches. Is this due to our ego-fixation? Mercury sets out to restructure our thinking processes and for many of us this is painful and frustrating. Unresolved issues from the past tend to push themselves forward. Moreover, these experiences reveal flaws in our internal organization as well as our external planning, which can make us feel foolish and inadequate.

Mercury retrograde, like any cosmic aspect, affects people differently, depending on where it hits their personal charts. Some people actually prosper under a retro Mercury, especially if Mercury is retrograde but otherwise well-aspected in their birth charts. It is also a time when matters begun under a previous retro period will come to fruition, or completion as the case may be. Firm decisions that have been previously made when Mercury is traveling normally through the zodiac may be implemented or finalized while Mercury is retrograde without too much worry, for experience shows that this can be done without undue problems arising.

Mercury Retrograde in Capricorn Capricorn, the Sea-Goat

When Mercury is retrograde, everyone's thinking is more introspective; we tend to think about issues and concerns that relate to the sign involved. With Mercury retrograde in Capricorn, people with this sign prominent in their charts will be especially prone to such introspection. Capricorn is a Cardinal Sign, so the other Cardinal Signs, Aries, Cancer and Libra will also receive a touch of the lash!

Mercury retro in Capricorn, a Saturn-ruled sign, becomes critical, penetrating and somewhat suspicious, although, due to the saturnine nature of the sign, thoughtful and diplomatic. No doubt spying and information-gathering will come to the fore, as this placement gives the ability to foster out secrets. Those involved in science, particularly chemistry, need to restrain malicious tendencies. This phase awakens the inclination to be miserly, cruel, malicious and spiteful. Learning to relax and developing a sense of humor will be important for our emotional and physical health! The pragmatic, material world takes precedence, so hold on to your assets and always have something "saved for a rainy day." This phase can stimulate skin problems and psoriasis due to nervous tension and stress. Too much worry will upset your digestion. Chiropractic care and regular massage should ease the problem.

Mercury turns direct on January 13th. This should be quite a good day all round, with some surprising benefits, especially for those who wish to make a new start. Merc stations on the fortunate Fixed Star, Kaus Borealis, which has the reputation of promoting of idealism and humanity, being endowed with bright ideas, enterprise and a sense of justice.

All areas of communication are affected by this phase, especially in matters related to teaching, healing, professional advice, workplace relationships (especially those with employees and subordinates), the military, and communications connected with such matters. Small animals may be important amidst the confusion. This period brings travel snafus, mail mishaps and missed appointments of all kinds. Documents can go astray. Be sure to carry a diary and refer to it often.

December 31, 1:13 pm - Full Moon/Blue Moon, New Year's Eve

The Blue Moon is the second Full Moon in any month. In 2009, it falls on an auspicious night, coinciding with New Year's Eve on the Gregorian calendar. The Blue Moon is a time for spontaneity and imagination. Do something new and unexpected. Let go of old fears and limitations and explore a new way of being. Blue Moon magick is powerful, so approach your craft with care and reverence. This is a time to release your inhibitions, letting go of fears that limit or constrict you. Release negative memories, emotions and habits that hold you back. Remember the ancestors and commune with them. Combine a Full Moon celebration with the revelry of New Year's Eve. Open your home to friends and family, drawing the sacred ingredients of your magickal life close around you.

*Hunter's Moon, Ancestor Moon, Moon of the Dead,
Let go of limitations, welcome innovation instead,
Cybele, Circe, Nephthys, Hel,
In change is goodness and wishing well.*

~ Dallas Jennifer Cobb

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Great Gift Ideas

Yule Sale - 10% off select Athames, Cauldrons, Mortar & Pestle Sets, Cloaks, Runes, Tarot Cards, Pendulums, Altar Tools, Herb Kits & Wicca Starter Kits. Now through December 31! Visit WitchSuperCenter.com

New Items at Witch SuperCenter

12 eBook Package - http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=9

Cunningham's Book of Shadows -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=801

Sabbats Almanac 2009/2010 -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=796

Journals, Pentacle, Celtic & Triquetra -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=5&sort=20a&page=2

Witches' Spell-A-Day Almanac -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=795

2010 Witches' Companion -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=794

To see all of our new items, visit http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=products_new

Witch SuperCenter December Sale Items

Magnetic Healing Copper Bracelet – Regular Price \$7.99, Sale Price \$6.99

Yule Sabbat Herbal Blend – Regular Price \$2.99, Sale Price \$1.99

Dictionary of Alchemy – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

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

Magickal Herbs Kit, 50 Herbs – Regular Price - 31.99, Sale Price \$28.79

To see all of our sale items, visit http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=specials

Herb of the Month

Mullein - Fire/Saturn, Gender - Feminine, Parts Used - The whole Herb, Magickal Properties - Powerful Protection, Uses - Used usually in a an amulet to protect against any unwanted influences, also, carry with you to guard against any wild animals when in the wilderness, burn the leaves when banishing heavy bad influences and an immediate halt to bad habits

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

Cats Eye - Like stroking a cat, this stone offers a feeling of serene happiness. Cat's Eye stimulates awareness and intuition, allowing the wearer to gain insight and thus find balance in the evolutions and transformations that life brings. It also increases energy when working with: Wealth, Beauty, Gambling, Protection, Healing, Glamoury, Invisibility, 3rd Eye Chakra Stimulant, Good Judgment, Seeing With Clarity, Clarity of Ideas and Grounding. It also aids in relieving tension and spasms in the head and neck area.

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

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=124

Tarot Card of the Month

Two of Cups - The Two of Cups speaks of emotional engagements. These may be in the form of deep connections made with our lovers, friends, family, partners, or co-workers. To be sure, these connections are complimentary as if two halves are coming together to form a perfect union.

This coming together is a new beginning and one filled with promise, hope and trust. There is a prickling at the back of our neck at the freshness and vitality a new relationship brings us. There is an intensity of our focus upon the sparkly energy of high emotion as we connect more deeply with our unifying contra.

There is also a sense of vulnerability here - as if we have to remove a mask in order to tap into that promising union the Two of Cups represents. All bets are off, we must be at our most exposed in order to reap the fullest benefit of this new connection with another or ourselves. On an esoteric level, this card is also symbolic of bringing together the dualistic nature of self into a harmonized whole.

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

Day of the Week

Monday - ruled by the Moon, spells involving emotions, the subconscious, domestic issues and feminine issues, a good day for psychic pursuits and dream work

Tuesday - ruled by Mars. spells for self-assertion, more energy, and courage, victory and passion are also indicated, as well as masculine goals in general

Wednesday - ruled by Mercury, spells involving mental issues, communication, education and self expression, a good day for consulting oracles (tarot, runes), planning magickal work, and writing

Thursday - ruled by Jupiter, spells for prosperity and money, luck and business, a day for political power, influencing people in high places, law and courts

Friday - ruled by Venus, spells for love, friendship, beauty, sensuality, healing, peace and harmony, a good day for spells for artistic ability and creativity generally

Saturday - ruled by Saturn, spells to overcome obstacles, neutralizing harmful energy, binding and banishing, a day for protecting by blocking or pushing away negative forces

Sunday - ruled by the Sun, spells of many kinds may be done on Sunday, the Sun giving energy to them all, but best for healing and success, physical strength, obtaining goals, illumination, and initiating any magickal activity

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

Witches' Protection Bottle

The following are the ingredients for a Witch's Protection Bottle and it works in two ways. It not only protects you, but it will deflect the harm towards you back to the originator. Get a glass jar such as a Mason jar, or even a baby food jar, anything that has a lid to it. Fill the jar halfway with small sharp objects such as pins, metal scrapings, broken glass, razor blades, etc. Be careful when you are filling the jar! Once the jar is half full with these objects, fill the jar up with a holy water mixture of salt and water. Put the top on the jar and be sure it's secured. This jar should be buried in the ground at least twelve inches deep. As long as the bottle remains in the ground, you will be protected from harm that is sent your way. If you bury the jar somewhere away from home, and you won't know if it will still be there in a year (City Witches don't always have backyards!), then be sure to repeat this process each year.

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