



## December Newsletter

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### **Important December Dates**

(All times are CST)

### **November 24, 1:19 am to December 13, 7:43 pm - Mercury Retrograde**

The last Mercury Retrograde cycle of the year begins November 24th 2011 at 20 Sagittarius 06, until it turns direct on December 13th 2011 at 03 Sagittarius 52. This period of time needs to be handled with caution, with carefulness and with retrospection to avoid glitches, personal misunderstandings, and delayed, flawed or disrupted communications with ourselves and others. Although there always will be problems and mishaps, much of the frustrations and stresses we experience during this retrograde are sometimes caused by our own negligence in paying attention to the particulars. The area that seems to be highlighted during this interlude is connected with our belief system, our optimism, our legal affairs, and our long distance travels and explorations. Mercury in Sagittarius is in detriment, and needs our concentration in staying responsive, paying attention to the details and keeping alert. To snooze is to lose, symbolizes this retrograde, as this is not a risk to be taken lightly now.

The Sabian symbol for 21 degrees of Sagittarius and for 4 degrees of Sagittarius are highlighted below.

Sagittarius 21 - A child and a dog with borrowed eyeglasses This is a symbol of man's unimpeachably universal spirit, and of his realization that there are no absolute lines of demarcation between higher and lower life or between the varying stages of competency

to be found in each. Self-consciousness requires a supplementation of its capacities in the structures and materials of each particular plane of being, and individuality develops as it enters into reality through its own characteristic modes of insight. The keyword is examination. When positive, the degree is an exceptional skill in the analysis of personal opportunity throughout the many dimensions of experience, and when negative, distorted vision and self-defeating prejudice.

Sagittarius 4 - A little child learning to walk This is a symbol of the self-confidence and authority which come to man through his refinement of skills and discipline of understanding, and of his capacity for mobilizing every potentiality of self at any point of challenge in events. Here is emphasis on the individual's effective and profitable participation in a reality which he has been able to approach and master through the completeness of his perspective. His gift of concentration is his genius of self-fulfillment. The keyword is ability. When positive, the degree is high sensitiveness to every possibility of accomplishment or broadened self-discovery, and when negative, unsuspected bigotry or foolish exactitude.

With Mercury Retrograde and in a sign where its full potential is not realized, this symbol speaks to us that the energy at this time is presenting us the opportunity for curiosity and role playing. In so doing, we gain the understanding of the actions of others and we achieve personal growth with higher knowledge. This sensitivity to the needs and wants of others ultimately creates the resourcefulness in our own characters to manifest the reality we wish for ourselves. Our greatest advantage lies in the fact that at this time period, it is affording us some quiet time to reflect, reinvent and reinvigorate our souls and who we are. This interlude allows us to experience, improvise and to look beyond our familiarities to see new vistas and challenges. At the same time, as we continue our journey, we need to impress into our consciousness the need to pay attention to details and to articulate our desires and goals. While we work through this period and as Mercury goes direct, the Sabian Symbol reveals that confidence and ability is gained through trial and error. To snooze is to lose is the message of Mercury Retrograde in Sagittarius.

### **December 10, 8:32 am - Lunar Eclipse, 8:36 am - Full Moon**

#### The Whirlpool Moon

The Gemini Full Moon is the year's second total lunar eclipse. The June eclipse's lesson was learning to think like a Witch. Witchy thinking may be needed even more now, because this eclipse occurs in the part of the sky called the Whirlpool. People may be scattered to the four winds as the year ends. If coven members are going their separate ways, hold a coven closure ceremony. It may also be time to consider distributing the wisdom you've gained to others.

If solitary, write a list of current endings or changes. Burn the list and scatter the ashes in the winter winds. Bless that which is ending and bless whatever enters to fill that void. A coven ritual may include this same list-burning procedure. Then, toss seeds to

the four winds to fertilize fresh starts in the new year. Because the Whirlpool also represents the distribution of wisdom, ask coven members to write (in advance) something they've learned from another member. Or, upgrade it into an awards ceremony. (Humorous awards are loads of fun.) Coven awards are a wonderful treat for Yule gatherings, and admiration and ego strokes are fantastic free gifts.

~ Elizabeth Hazel in [Llewellyn's 2011 Witches' Datebook](#)

## **December 21, 11:30 pm - Yule/Winter Solstice**

### 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

**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](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=129)

### **December 24, 12:06 pm - New Moon**

A few days after we begin our sojourn through the winter solstice during the cold and dark nights, we will come upon the Capricorn New Moon on December 24th 2011. With the outer planets in beneficial support and with Jupiter in trine, this moon phase is beaming its message to us that we need to let our inner light shine and to no longer to allow itself to hide under a bushel. As this moon is following in the footsteps of a solar and lunar eclipse, and on the eve of Christmas and other mid-winter religious and secular celebrations, it is asking us to reawaken, revitalize, relight, and to anticipate the birth and rebirth of our inner self, to become a beacon of hope through our journey through the darkness. As the celebrations of the light bring cheer to the dreariness of winter, our own inner light intermingling with all others will bring cheer to all those around us as we wait patiently for the coming of spring.

With the outer planets at the beginning of their signs, it is showing us the necessity and importance of ridding ourselves of old, out-of-date habits and seeking new assessments and reforms. This will need to be on our to-do list if we are to be prepared for what is ahead of us in the New Year. This period of time is not only asking us to let our light shine brightly, but to be a guiding light and example for others to follow and to emulate. Pluto conjuncts this moon, and is intensifying the message of transmutation, transformation and revitalization of all we will need to actualize into reality. Pluto is asking us to face our shadowy side and to be able to see our true light in order to maintain the courage to go forward in the dark to the light at the end of the tunnel. With beneficial aspects to Neptune and Uranus, our visions and imaginations have no boundaries.

### **December 25 - Christian Christmas**

Pagan and Christian belief is intermingled with Christmas celebration. Many traditions that are now a part of the mainstream Christian culture actually come from ancient Pagan celebrations-rites such as decorating with evergreens, hanging ornaments on a tree, partaking of sweet confections, processions, gift giving, wassailing or singing carols, and the burning of the Yule log.

## **December 31 - New Year's Eve**

### New Year's Eve Spell

Write down three things that you don't want in your life anymore.

Write down three things that you want in your life.

As the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, burn the paper with the things you don't want, and put the paper with the things you want in your Book of Shadows.

### **Follow us on Twitter**

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

### **Witch SuperCenter December Sale Items**

Wood Book of Shadows, Triquetra Design - Regular Price \$34.99, Sale Price \$29.99

Handcrafted Wand with Crystal Point - Regular Price - \$14.99, Sale Price - \$11.99

Wicca Starter Kit with Money Spell - Regular Price - \$35.99, Sale Price - \$29.99

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

Fragrant Floral Tea - Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price - \$4.99

To see all of our sale items, visit

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=specials](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=specials)

### **Herb of the Month**

**Mistletoe** - Air/Sun, Gender - Masculine, Parts Used - The whole Herb, Magickal Properties - Protection, Healing and Love, Uses - Harvested on a Waning Moon, used to repel negative influences and protect against unwanted advances, used in sachets and amulets, or hung in the home, it is a general all-purpose protector, use in a bath for healing wishes or the herb added to a prayer bowl enhances healing, worn, it is said to help conceive and to hold on to your current love, hunters were said to carry some of this for luck and protection, wear when astral traveling for protection.

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](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 ones 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

**Isa** (I: Ice.) – A challenge or frustration. Psychological blocks to thought or activity, including grievances. Standstill, or a time to turn inward and wait for what is to come, or to seek clarity. This rune reinforces runes around it. Isa Merkstave (Isa cannot be reversed, but may lie in opposition): Ego-mania, dullness, blindness, dissipation. Treachery, illusion, deceit, betrayal, guile, stealth, ambush, plots.

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

## Tarot Card of the Month

### The Fool

#### Basic Tarot Story

With all his worldly possessions in one small pack, the Fool travels he knows not where. So filled with visions, questions, wonder and excitement is he, that he doesn't see the cliff he is likely to fall over. At his heel a small dog harries him (or tries to warn him of a possible mis-step). Will the Fool learn to pay attention to where he's going before it's too late?

#### Basic Tarot Meaning

At #0 (or, in some decks, #22, the last card as much as the first of the Majors), the Fool is the card of infinite possibilities. The bag on the staff indicates that he has all he needs to do or be anything he wants, he has only to stop and unpack. He is on his way to a brand new beginning.

But the card carries a little bark of warning as well. While it's wonderful to be enthralled with all around you, excited by all life has to offer, you still need to watch your step, lest you fall and end up looking the fool.

As a card, the Fool ultimately stands for a new beginning often involving a literal move to a new home or job. The querent (meaning the sitter, or the one asking the cards for advice) might be starting to date again, or trying out some new activity. There's more than just change here, there is renewal, movement, and the energy of a fresh start.

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In the Tarot, cards like The Magician or The Hermit can often stand for the querent or for someone in the querent's life. The Fool, however, usually stands for the querent, himself. He is back at zero, whether that be in romantic affairs, or career, work and intellectual pursuits. Far from being sad or frustrated by having to start over, however, the querent feels remarkably free, light hearted and refreshed, as if being given a second chance. He feels young and energized, as excited as a child who has discovered a new toyshop. Who knows what he will find on the shelves?

In addition, he likely has no idea where he's going or what he's going to do. But that doesn't matter. For the Fool, the most important thing is to just go out and enjoy the world. To see what there is to see and delight in all of it.

Unfortunately, this childlike state can make one overly optimistic or naive. A Fool can be a Fool. That business opportunity might not be so surefire or amazing as it seems, and that new lover might not be so flawless.

Like the Fool, you might be so busy sightseeing and imagining the possibilities that you completely miss the fact that you're about to go right off a cliff! The card advises that one listen to that watchful little dog, who might be a concerned friend, a wise tarot reader, someone harassing you from the sidelines, or just your instincts. However exciting new beginnings may be, you still have to watch your step.

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

## **Correspondence of the Month**

### Seasons

**Summer** – love, marriage, friendship, beauty, courage, fire magick, strength, protection, magickal and physical energy

**Spring** – healing, air magick, ecological rituals, fertility, finances

**Autumn** – money, employment, water magick

**Winter** – Earth magick, introspection, meditation, magickal exercises, banishing, seeking past lives

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

## **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)