



January Newsletter

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Important January Dates

(All times are CST)

January 8, 5:37 am – New Moon

New Moon (night of): The night of the New or dark moon is the one night during the lunar month when there is not a sliver of the moon's presence in the night time sky. This is an extremely magical time and is considered to be "between the worlds," or deeply connected to the spirit realm. New Moon magic that is worked on this night is especially potent.

January 22, 7:35 am – Full Moon

The January Full Moon is known as the Cold Moon or Leo Moon.

Leo Moon

The new year is a good time to leave old disagreements behind and to perform a ritual to end a long-standing argument or separation. The final aspect of this Full moon is Moon trine Pluto. Trine final aspects are good for positive outcomes, and Pluto is associated with the unconscious, the hidden. With the Moon in Leo, a demonstrative or enthusiastic ritual is desired.

Since it is easier to perform the ritual first, then, approach the person to heal the rift, a solitary ritual may be best. Choose an object(s) to represent those from whom you are divided. Items of sentimental value work well, but you may also use tarot cards based on the person and your relationship. Most decks explain what sort of person the Queen of Cups represents, but you should use the Hermit card if it fits the person better.

Go to your ritual space and cast a simple circle. Then, face the object you have chosen to represent the estranged person. Talk to it, explain your feelings, and ask for reunion. Think about his or her point of view, try to put yourself in his or her place. End by saying, "For the good of all concerned." Cleanse the item used. Then, contact that person to reconnect.

- Magenta Griffith

January 28, 2:31 pm until February 18, 8:57 pm - Mercury Retrograde

Approximately every four months, for a period of about three weeks, Mercury has one of its infamous retrograde periods. Therefore, when Mercury turns retrograde by transit, think in terms of the possibility for communication breakdown. All types of communication have the potential for becoming confused, delayed or misunderstood. There can be confusion, changing of plans, indecisiveness, mail slowdowns, lost letters, transportation problems, electronic equipment breakdowns, and failures in negotiations. For these reasons, it is felt that the Mercury retrograde period is not a good time for signing contracts, scheduling negotiations, or launching new projects. It's a good time for planning and organizing anything that will be finalized after Mercury has returned to direct motion

They are a fine time to draw on knowledge and guidance from deeper levels of consciousness. The three weeks that Mercury is retrograde presents us with an opportunity for carefully considering all the possible ramifications of pending actions and decisions. We are encouraged to take care of unfinished business, especially business put into motion during the months following Mercury's last retrograde period and preceding the current retrograde period.

When a planet is retrograde, its energies are turned inwards. People experience the matters of that planet subjectively, and from within, rather than objectively and from without. This applies to all the planets which do go retrograde, both as transits in the sky and as they are in a natal chart.

In the dance of the planets, retrogrades are times when those planetary energies are regrouping, going over old ground and reemphasizing things which may have not been fully assimilated in the first pass. They are also a cosmic breathing space. The cycles are 'on hold' and we can take time to go within and assimilate the lessons we have learned through transits or aspects which occurred while the planet was direct in motion. They also give us a second chance to try dealing with those energies, if we either ignored their effect or didn't deal with them successfully the first time. They also give the cosmos a chance to 'rub it in' if we are particularly stubborn about learning a cosmic lesson we need to learn. This applies equally to all planets as they retrograde.

In general, any retrograde planet indicates matters ruled by that planet are secret, hidden and unrevealed. There is more to the matter than meets the eye. People indicated by that planet don't tell all, and further digging may be necessary to get the whole truth, if you are even able to get the whole truth at all. Also, those people may be unavailable or inaccessible, so you can't get to them to ask in the first place. A retrograde planet shows areas where we are holding back, adverse to moving or progressing, and if there is movement, it is often coerced or forced or

against our better judgment. A retrograde planet can also show conditions which are rundown, neglected, requiring care or attention; places or people which are poor or deprived or possibly ill or at some disadvantage like handicapped or restricted or disenfranchised. Retrogrades can also positively indicate a change of mind or heart, lost things found, returning to a previous state. It can break an impasse by returning to old matters and forcing a reexamination and reevaluation. It can cause a return of people who left (like a breakup), reuniting of long lost people (the relationship shown by the planet in question), or "going back to the old neighborhood" type scenarios. How long-lasting or permanent these things will be depends upon the people involved, and the planet's aspects to their natal charts.

Because Mercury is the planet of communication and everyday occurrences, its retrogrades cause the most problem in the everyday world. Mercury retrogrades about three times a year for about three weeks at a time. Track the periods of Mercury's retrogrades and see how the world becomes a bit more disorganized and confused. You get bigger traffic jams, more political gaffes, more weird TV and radio transmission problems. This retrograde is the most noticeable and upsetting to the world at large. As with any planetary phenomenon, there are things that are better done when Mercury is direct, and there are also things which can be better accomplished when Mercury is retrograde. Paying attention to these times can help you tune your actions to the cosmos, and be more effective in whatever you do.

February 2 – Imbolc

Imbolc

Animals/Mythical Creatures – firebird, dragon, groundhog, deer, burrowing animals, ewes, robin, sheep, lamb, other creatures waking from hibernation

Gemstones – amethyst, garnet, onyx, turquoise

Incense/Oil – jasmine, rosemary, frankincense, cinnamon, neroli, musk, olive, sweet pea, basil, myrrh, and wisteria, apricot, carnation

Colors/Candles – brown, pink, red, orange, white, lavender, pale yellow, silver

Tools/Symbols/Decorations – white flowers, marigolds, plum blossoms, daffodils, Brigid wheel, Brigid's cross, candles, grain/seed for blessing, red candle in a cauldron full of earth, doll, Bride's Bed; the Bride, broom, milk, birchwood, snowflakes, snow in a crystal container, evergreens, homemade besom of dried broom, orange candle anointed in oil (see above) can be used to symbolize the renewing energy of the Sun's rebirth.

Goddesses – Virgin Goddess, Venus, Diana, Februa, Maiden, Child Goddess, Aradia, Athena, Inanna, Vesta, Gaia, Brigid, Selene (Greek), Branwen (Manx-Welsh)

Gods – young Sun Gods, Pan, Cupid/Eros (Greco-Roman), Dumuzi (Sumerian)

Essence – conception, initiation, insight, inspiration, creativity, mirth, renewal, dedication, breath of life, life-path, wise counsel, plan, prepare

Dynamics/Meaning – first stirring of Mother Earth, lambing, growth of the Sun God, the middle of winter

Purpose – honoring the Virgin Goddess, festival of the Maiden/Light

Rituals/Magick – cleansing; purification, renewal, creative inspiration, purification, initiation, candle work, house & temple blessings, welcoming Brigid, feast of milk & bread

Customs – lighting candles, seeking omens of Spring, storytelling, cleaning house, bonfires, indoor planting, stone collecting, candle kept burning dusk till dawn; hearth re-lighting

Foods – dairy, spicy foods, raisins, pumpkin, sesame & sunflower seeds, poppyseed bread/cake, honey cake, pancakes, waffles, herbal tea

Herbs – angelica, basil, bay, benzoin, celandine, clover, heather, myrrh, all yellow flowers, willow

Element/Gender – earth/female

Threshold – midnight

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get our The Sabbats eBook at www.the-witches-apothecary.com/the-sabbats-ebook.html

New Items at The Witch's Apothecary

Soapstone Mortar & Pestle – www.the-witches-apothecary.com/soapstone-mortar-amp-pestle-set.html

Magickal Herb Kit – 50 Herbs – www.the-witches-apothecary.com/magickal-herb-kit--50-her.html

Brass Mortar & Pestle – www.the-witches-apothecary.com/brass-mortar-amp-pestle.html

New Individual Herbs – www.the-witches-apothecary.com/individual-herbs.html

Pendulum Divination eBook – www.the-witches-apothecary.com/pendulum-divination-ebook.html

To see all of our new items, visit www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com

The Witch's Apothecary January Sale Items

Deluxe Wicca Kit w/Money Spell – Regular Price \$54.99, Sale Price \$50.99

Herbal Headache Tea – Regular Price \$5.99, Sale Price \$4.99

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

Wildflower Bulk Incense Sticks – Regular Price \$6.99, Sale Price \$4.99

Wood Incense Burner/Ash Catcher – Regular Price - \$2.99, Sale Price 1.99

To see all of our sale items, visit www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/saleitems.html

Astrology

by Arlene

405-602-5840

cell 775-513-1880

AstrArlene@aol.com

ASTROLOGICAL "GIFT LIST" FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Hello Everybody!!! I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season and are now ready to welcome in JANUARY 1, 2008!!! I hope you have all received the gifts of your heart's desire and have not had to spend too much time standing on long lines to exchange, unneeded or unwanted gifts!!! Well, to alleviate that potential problem for NEXT CHRISTMAS or upcoming birthdays, I have decided to give you some insight as to what you might purchase for your

friends and relatives according to their astrological sun signs (THAT THEY WON'T RUSH TO THE STORE TO EXCHANGE!!!)

ARIES

BOYS – (depending on age) any kind of RED (people mover, method of transportation)
Ex: bicycle, motorcycle, automobile, race car!!! Toy trucks too!!!

GIRLS – membership to a gymnasium, yoga classes, tickets to a soccer game

TAURUS

BOYS – (any age) will all love chocolates or a gift certificate for ONE DOZEN boxes of chocolates!! Chocolate covered cherries?? Anyone???

GIRLS – JEWELRY!!! Especially necklaces!!! Taurus rules the neck!!!

GEMINI

BOYS – transportation (ticket if necessary) to visit siblings, or relatives

GIRLS – game of Scrabble (latest edition) OR a magazine subscription

CANCER

BOYS – a history of the family tree, (nicely bound) or family photo album

GIRLS – a "Backpack" to carry her home wherever she goes!!!!

LEO

BOYS – a ticket to a Broadway Show and fancy restaurant OR 12 movie passes

GIRLS – acting classes, OR singing and dancing lessons

VIRGO

BOYS – an invitation to a gourmet restaurant OR a subscription to SUDOKU puzzles

GIRLS – membership to Weight Watchers OR an international cookbook!!!!

LIBRA

BOYS – a set of golf clubs OR trip to a miniature golf course!!!

GIRLS – an extreme makeover OR a surprise party (or both!!!)

SCORPIO

BOYS – a set of metaphysical books, Ex: astrology, numerology, reincarnation??

GIRLS – any jewelry containing Bloodstone!!! She'll love it!!

SAGITTARIUS

BOYS – an archery set OR a gold religious item on a gold chain

GIRLS – a beautifully bound Book of Psalms OR a religious item and chain

CAPRICORN

BOYS – a set of LEGO building blocks OR a game of Big Business!!!

GIRLS – a crystal ball OR beautiful Moonstone

AQUARIUS

BOYS – the newest invention of the day OR a computer (laptop preferably!!)

GIRLS – the newest cellular phone OR a telescope to study the heavens!!

PISCES

BOYS – a surfboard OR a trip to a religious retreat!!!

GIRLS – a gift certificate to purchase a dozen pair of shoes!!! OR a pretty fountain (indoors or outdoors, depending on the recipient and YOUR PURSE!!!)

Well folks, I have decided to change the format of the column (probably until next November 2008). What I plan to do is a column that I am sure will appeal to ages 15 to ??? It will be a horary column. What that means to you is I will answer your questions, astrologically. Ex: You may ask a question such as "Will I marry the man I am currently involved with?" or "Should I sell my house?" or "Should I sell my business?" etc. To have me answer a question similar to the questions above, you need only email Astrarlene@aol.com with the question, your name and the exact time of the question (MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU LOOK AT THE TIME AND JOT IT DOWN AND HAVE IT AVAILABLE WHEN YOU EMAIL ME). I will also need the exact location of where you are when the question first starts to form in your mind. Ex; OKC, OK 73108. I WILL NOT NEED YOUR BIRTH TIME ONLY THE *BIRTH TIME* OF THE QUESTION!!! I will pick two or three questions for each issue. I WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW YOU CHOOSE TO USE THIS INFORMATION. WHEN YOU EMAIL ME, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS PARAGRAPH "I AM AWARE THE ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS ARE FOR MY READING PLEASURE AND I WILL NOT HOLD ARLENE ASIN RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR HOW I CHOOSE TO USE THIS INFORMATION"

You may purchase the ASTRO STAR KARDS from The Witch's Apothecary and you will be able to do your own readings. I can help you by e-mail if you have questions about doing your own readings. The cards sell at Borders and other book stores by mail order and for \$15.00 more than at The Witch's Apothecary. However, by special arrangement between myself (Arlene Asin), one of the authors of the Kards and The Witch's Apothecary, we can offer you the Kards for \$25.00 a set!! To order them, go to www.the-witches-apothecary.com/astro-star-kards.html

Well, until next month, stay happy, healthy, warm and begin the New Year in Love and Light.

Arlene

Herb of the Month

Sea Salt ~ Element – Water, Planet – Earth, Gender – Feminine, Parts Used – the whole herb
Magickal Properties - purification, grounding, protection.

Uses - cleansing of ritual items, casting circles

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/magickal-herbs-spells--recipes-ebook.html

Stone of the Month

Fluorite – creativity, mental abilities, meditation, astral travel, confidence, inspiration (*air*)

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 www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/rune-dice-divination.html

Tarot Card of the Month

Empress – The Empress is a symbol of love, fertility and motherhood. She represents compassion and devotion. Positively associated with fertility, birth, motherhood, harmony, nature, prosperity, joy, love, and artistic ambition. Negatively associated with domestic upheaval, emotional blackmail, over-protectiveness, poverty, infertility, unwanted pregnancy, and suppressed logical expression.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/basic-tarot-card-readin.html

Correspondence of the Month

Herbs

Angelica Root – protection, healing, temperance

Basil – money & riches, protection, love

Chamomile Flowers – healing, prosperity

Cinnamon – protection, healing, love, passion, money

Clove – repelling negative influences

Coriander Seed – love, fertility, protection

Cumin – protection, fidelity, exorcism

Dill Weed – protection, love

Fennel Seed – protection, healing, purification

Flax Seed – money, protection, psychic powers, healing

Frankincense Tears – protection, purification, consecration, exorcism

Mugwort – protection, divination, clairvoyance

Myrrh Gum – high psychic vibrations, spirituality, purification, protection

Oregano – protection, love, warding off colds

Peppermint Leaf – purification, healing sleep, love, prosperity

Rosebuds & Petals – ultimate love, protection

Rosemary Leaf – contentment, love, protection, clear thinking, money

Sage Leaf – healing, purification

Sea Salt – cleansing, casting circles, purification, grounding, protection

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our Magickal Correspondences eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/magickal-correspondences-ebook.html

Spell of the Month

Sacred Space Purification Spell

To purify a sacred space, during the sixth hour after sunrise or the first or eighth hour after sunset consecrate an aromatherapy bowl or small cooking pot by passing it through the smoke of frankincense and sprinkling it with blessed water, saying:

*I consecrate this container to aid in my Craft,
that the spell I now weave will take hold and last.*

Heat spring water in the bowl over a tea light or in the pot on a burner. When the water is hot, add the following herbs, speaking after each

star anise:

Let all negativity be deflected from this place

one bay leaf:

*As the scent of this leaf moves through this place,
may purification enter into this space*

one teaspoon sage:

*Through sage I now make this spell manifest,
that with peace and protection this space will be blessed.
For as I will, so mote it be!*

To receive more spells, get our Wicca 101 and Beyond: A Witch's Grimoire eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/book-of-shadows-ebook.html