



## January Newsletter

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It's been a great year and we couldn't survive without the support of our loyal customers. In appreciation of your patronage, we're offering a special discount only for our newsletter subscribers. Place an order between now and the end of January to receive this special discount. Use coupon code NEW09 when checking out for a 20% discount on orders of \$25 or more.

### **Important January Dates**

(All times are CDT)

#### **January 1, New Year's Day**

Most people make New Year's resolutions, then manage to give up on them in defeat within two weeks, and feel like failures for the rest of the year because they couldn't manifest a handful of changes in their lives in a few days' time. This year, why not try something different. It's called the Burning Bowl Ritual, and it's perfect for New Year's Eve, or even special occasions throughout the year. This ritual can be adapted to almost any occasion or spiritual gathering.

After your feast, hand out sheets of paper to each guest and ask them to draw a big T on the paper. This is their personal list to take home, so they can put away their list and review it later in the year. On the left column, ask them to write down the things they want to honor and bid farewell to in the coming year. Saying goodbye to these things will make room for better things to come.

Once they are done with the things they wanted to say goodbye to, Have them turn their attention to the right column and write down things that they welcome in for the next year. Not things they resolved to do. Not things they “invited” in, but may not come. Rather, things they “welcome” in because that implies that these things are definitely coming to them and they’ll be happy to have these things in their lives. The majority of things in this list will arrive effortlessly throughout the course of the coming year.

Ask them to write each thing they are saying goodbye to and each thing they will welcome on a separate sheet of paper. Instruct them to tear this sheet of paper to separate the individual intentions.

When everyone has their list completed, ask them to consider a verb for the next year and a simple phrase or mantra. These are, in effect, the themes for the next year, and usually go hand in hand. As guests begin to think of their themes for the next year, expect some brainstorming with others to come up with the perfect word. Once they have their themes, ask them to commit them to memory for later in the evening.

Next, form a circle around the burning bowl with each person holding a candle. Light yours and then the person’s next to you, that person will light the candle of the person on the left, and so forth until the circle is complete. Ask Spirit, the Universe or your personal deities to witness your intentions.

Ask each guest to toss a piece of their paper into the fire, saying goodbye to the things that no longer serve them and that they wish to get rid of in the coming year. Some may call out these things proudly and some may perform this part of the ritual silently, as is their prerogative.

Then, one by one, ask guests to offer the slips of paper representing things to be welcomed in into the fire, with the intentions carried away by the smoke to come to fruition over the next year.

When all the pieces of paper are gone, offer each guest a choice of grape juice or champagne and fill their glasses. Call out the themes for the new year and toast to them. Then close the evening with thanks to your deity for bearing witness.

## **January 10, 9:27 pm - Full Moon**

### **The Wolf Moon**

The Full Moon rises in January while the wild winter wind howls. Like the wolves that stalked early villages, it prowls and growls, hungry and hunting, this Moon of the deepest winter. Inside, gather close to the warmth of hearth and home. Draw a cloak of protection and strength around you, and journey within. Let the darkness of the season shelter your plans and dreams. Inner visions appear, spurring us to plan what we will plant, for ahead lies the fertile cycle. Both in the spirit world and within the earth, new life gathers its energies, preparing. Take time for quiet contemplation of what is to come. Focus on preparation and protection in the privacy of loved ones, for strength grows in the quiet time as we are readied for the season ahead.

*Snow Moon, Cold Moon, Quiet Moon abide,  
Let protection and strength grow inside,  
Inanna, Sarasvati, Hera, and Sinn,  
Sew new beginnings deep within.*

~ Dallas Jennifer Cobb

## **January 11, 7:06 am until February 1, 1:10 am - Mercury Retrograde**

Mercury retrograde provides the opportunity to adjust our thoughts, attitudes and decisions about our issues and adjust our new direction as we move into 2009. The adjustments of Mercury retrograde typically occur three times a year (four in 2009) and become similar to a course correction during the flight from one destination to another. The adjustments that occur during Mercury retrograde typically have a theme that occurs all year long, shown by the elements of the signs affected. In 2009 the adjustments that are slated to occur during the retrogrades begin in air signs and return back to earth signs. Thus these Mercury retrogrades take our ideas, decisions and attitudes about specific events and utilize the information to put new processes, contracts, and the like into place.

Mercury retrogrades have a cycle in which the retrogrades have an exactness of covering the same signs, the same degrees and approximately on the same calendar days. This exactness is seldom thought about Mercury retrograde, with the seemingly chaotic and confusing situations we experience during the retrogrades. The exact Mercury retrogrades we will experience in 2009 were the exact same signs, same degrees and approximately the same calendar days of 1930. This cycle is seldom talked about in the astrology world, but is the cause of major course corrections for humanity. We can look back at history of 1930 to see the impact of Mercury retrogrades covering the same time frames, the same signs and the same degrees. We are coming to an important time as was experienced in 1930. For instance, the President of the U.S. in 1930 was Herbert Hoover, who had a birthday of August 10th, and the U.S. President in 2009 is Barack Obama, born August 4th, both having Sun in Leo. Few people are old enough to recount the transition of that time, but it becomes history repeating itself to give us a chance to grow as humanity, as a society and to make a difference. The Planet of Mars follows this same cycle and the sequence of Mars retrogrades are similar as well. Mercury rules ideas and attitudes and Mars brings these ideas and attitudes into action. The phrase "thoughts become things" certainly brings home the combined energy of these two planetary connections. With 2009 being an ELEVEN year (in numerology - more see below), Mars retrograde in Leo at the end of 2009 opens the door for visionary leadership to bring forward a higher level of opportunities.

The purpose of Mercury retrograde is to review and revise our life and our connection with reality. The timing of this universe is geared toward the Sun as it moves through the zodiac. Mercury has an orbit that at times gets ahead of the Sun allowing us to look into the future toward new and innovative ideas. However, we cannot continue in that vein until we come back to the present designated by the Sun and put our new ideas into manifestation. During the time that Mercury jumps ahead, we ultimately have to bring the ideas back into the present to test and evaluate to see how they fit into our life. As Mercury retrogrades back into the present, the connection with the Sun happens as we test drive our ideas and re-align with reality and the natural timing of the universe.

The Mercury retrogrades that are occurring in 2009 provide the opportunities for us to make mental adjustments about decisions we have as our goals, aspirations that are our focus during the ELEVEN year of 2009. Because we are making decisions to bring forward the visionary awareness into our new journey, new endeavors, new goals, the events during the Mercury retrograde time frames help us to veer away from the past and take bold steps into our new future. . These adjustments will be very necessary as they allow us to make major changes, emphasizing our bold and innovative choices. The ELEVEN year brings forward the opportunity to utilize the "master" qualities from a Divine perspective of leadership, visionary purpose, and Divine intent. The ELEVEN reduces to the TWO (1+1=2) which provides the basic energy for the year of relating to people, places and things. However, with the opportunities available to bring forward the Divine path available for those AWARE of the ELEVEN, the journey through 2009 provides a pathway lit by Divine opportunities.

In 2009, Mercury retrogrades four times, starting the retrograde in air signs then going back into earth signs. The change in mental attitudes, information and perceptions are going to go back to review the earth aspects, which means that we will be changing and adjusting our thinking and re-organizing an important area of our life. Because 2009 is universally an ELEVEN / TWO year (in numerology), this Mercury retrograde process becomes important in the major adjustments as we move into relationships and shifting our journey with others coming and others going. Partnerships in different areas of our lives become the theme and the area of adjustments all the way through 2009. Important to our new journey are those that share a common path, we can walk along the road together toward specific goals, accomplishments and purpose. Mercury retrograde provides the opportunity to adjust our thoughts, attitudes and communications about our direction. The adjustments that are slated to occur in 2009 are in air signs and then changing to only earth signs; Aquarius/Capricorn (in Jan/Feb), Gemini/Taurus (in May), and Libra/Virgo (in Sept), At the end of 2009 with Mercury retrograde occurs from December 26th through January 15th and is completely in the earth sign of Capricorn. This transitions into the remaining retrogrades of 2010 to impact only the earth signs of Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.

The same signs, the same degrees and the approximate same calendar days occurred in 1930, as Mercury retrogrades have a cycle. We often think of Mercury retrograde as random, chaotic and confusing. However, there is an exactness with these Mercury retrogrades, repeating the same signs, degrees and calendar days every cycle. The; other planets are in their own cycle and orbit, but the similarity with history repeating itself, gives humanity a chance to repeat the same mistakes or to revise the course corrections as an improvement along the way. Looking back at the four Mercury retrogrades of 1930 allows us to see the events that are now cycling back around to experience, change and improve. Through this "exactness" of the Mercury retrograde cycle, we can see the cosmic course correction opportunity.

The fact that the retrogrades impact both air and earth signs of the zodiac focuses on the outer world and accomplishments, but also in the air sign issues of mental attributes, attitudes and information. The fact is that these areas of Career, Money and Health are changing as we retrograde back to deal with specific earth issues. Our attitude toward Career, Money and Health are very important and very key to the retrograde phases of 2009. Our thoughts, attitudes and communications are changing and we are adjusting the focus in our life about these areas, to bring important building blocks to the earth signs, and our mental attitude surrounding these building blocks may adjust the approach and people that we talk with about these areas. The energy that we share with others will impact our relationships and the different people we align with create different scenarios as we move forward. We can begin to see how we share our ideas with others and that during a Mercury retrograde, and especially in 2009, we will be adjusting specific aspects of our life and adjusting our thoughts, attitudes and communication about the specific areas of career, money and health.

The Mercury retrogrades occurring this year provide the opportunities for us to bring forward new and different ideas and talk with others that are also interested in pursuing these new directions. With 2009 being an ELEVEN / TWO year, we can bet that the mercury retrogrades will have a huge impact on our ideas, communication and the relationships we have been building. A whole new innovative movement will occur, turning our world into a new and different direction. Our thoughts, ideas and relationships are geared toward the Jupiter, Neptune, Chiron issues of Humanity. Inventions, innovative designs and major idea changes will come about to make major adjustments during this time. The changes, revisions and adjustments that occur during these Mercury retrograde time frames will have a major impact in events of humanity, relationships with others as strong, inventions and bold new ideas are being born.

Because Mercury itself rules the AIR sign of Gemini and the analytical part of Virgo, we will be adjust everything related to thoughts, concepts, ideas, and communication. When Mercury retrogrades, we find that many parts of our life are being revised. Often these revisions can be a surprise or throw us back a step. However, these revisions which occur during a Mercury retrograde, are a "course correction" and provide a stop gap measure until we can review situations. During this time of revision, change is compounded and confusion is created by our reactions to the ever-changing situations. Thus anything started during this time will ultimately be taken back or even revised further, making for a high-frustration time. This will be especially true with changing our minds, reviewing new ideas and our communication being improved and honed so not to be misunderstood.

The best mode to be in during a Mercury retrograde is one of "non-reaction," and with air signs being impacts, things will be changing continually during a Mercury retrograde. Treat the time period as a time of gathering information, yet because the information will be in constant change it would be like trying to comb your hair in a wind storm. Best to wait until the changes stop before attempting to make things orderly. Therefore, just let the winds of situations blow around you without reacting. Once Mercury turns direct, take a look at the information that is still around at that time and go about putting everything in order, while maintaining the fine art of flexibility.

## January 19 - Martin Luther King Day

### *Standing Tall*

by Jamie McKenzie

Some kings rule their kingdoms sitting down  
Surrounded by luxury, soft cushions and fans  
But this King stood strong stood proud stood tall

When the driver told Rosa "Move to the back of the bus!"  
When the waiter told students "We don't serve your kind!"  
When the Mayor told voters "Your vote don't count!"  
And when the sheriff told marchers "Get off our streets!"  
Using fire hoses, police dogs and cattle prods to move them along  
This King stood strong stood proud stood tall  
Speaking of peace of love and children hand in hand free at last free at last

When some yelled for violence  
For angry revenge  
An eye for an eye  
And a tooth for a tooth  
He stood his ground  
Preaching peace

And when some spit out hate  
He stood there smiling  
Spreading love  
Until it rolled like the sea across the land  
Sweeping away Jim Crow  
Breaking down the walls  
Ringing the bell  
Joyfully For Freedom

Until Standing on the mountain top  
They shot him  
Coldly  
Hoping to see him fall  
Hoping to put him away  
To bring him low

But this King even in death even today stands strong stands proud stands tall  
And we remember

## **January 26, 1:55 am - New Moon, 1:59 am - Solar Eclipse**

Eclipses tend to signal significant change and new information. They can sometimes signal a stressful time, mainly due to the shift in circumstances that may occur. Try to avoid making important decisions during an eclipse as the energy around you will tend to be unsettled and changeable.

Solar eclipses (SE) are closely associated with new beginnings and their effects can last up to one year. Lunar eclipses (LE) are associated with completion or endings and their effects can last up to six months. We may start to experience an eclipse up to 30 days prior to the event, and no two eclipses are alike (based on patterns, aspects, degrees, etc.). Some eclipses affect us more than others based on our birth charts. It's wise to consult an astrologer, which usually proves to be a good investment. It's also wise to wait at least a week for things to settle after an eclipse before making any important or final decisions.

The eclipses for this time period are: January 26 = SE, February 9 = LE These two eclipses can invoke change; seeking new associations, deepening your commitment with current relationships, or discovering new creativity.

## **January 26 - Chinese New Year**

The Chinese New Year is celebrated as the symbol of spring's celebration. In fact in China, the Chinese New Year is still called the Spring festival. It is celebrated after the fall harvest and before the spring planting season. The date of the Chinese New Year is always changing and is dependant on the Chinese calendar. Emperor Huangdi in the year 2637 B.C.E invented the Chinese calendar.

### Chinese New Year Calendar

The Chinese New Year Calendar is a combined solar/lunar calendar and is somewhat similar to the Chinese calendar. For the purpose of determining the dates of the Chinese New Year some astronomical calculations need to be taken care of. Firstly, we need to determine the dates for the new moon.

The new moon is the black moon; that is when the moon is in conjunction with the sun. The date of the new moon is taken as the first day of the new month. Secondly those dates are determined when the sun's longitude is the multiple of 30 degrees. These dates are termed as Principal terms and are used for determining the number of each month. The Principle term 1 takes place when the sun's longitude is 330 degrees, the 2nd Principle term occurs when the sun's longitude is about 0 degrees. The principle term 3 takes place when the sun's longitude is 30 degrees, the principle term 11 occurs when the sun's longitude is 270 degrees and the principle term 12 occurs when the sun's longitude is 300 degrees. The current 60-year cycle in the Chinese calendar started on 2nd February 1984.

### Chinese New Year of the Ox

Chinese have a unique way of representing the New Year through animals. They have 12 different animals to represent each year of the 12 year -cycle and the order remains the same throughout with the year of the rat beginning the cycle and the year of the boar/ pig ending the same. As the Chinese year 2008 was signified as the year of the rat, the following year, 2009, is going to be the year of the ox. Chinese New Year of the OX, 2009 will fall on January 26th and will mark the 15 day long festivities beginning on the said date and going on till the 9th February.

Preparations for the Chinese New Year of the Ox, 2009 will begin months in advance so that the celebrations be observed in the highest magnitude and splendor. As the different years of the 12 year cycle are characterized by different animals, people born on the different years also feature different traits and characters and more often than not, they are believed to be influenced and inspired by the animals of the particular year they are born in.

With this article on Chinese New Year of the Ox, 2009 we strive to hold forth the interesting characteristics and features of the Ox and how babies born in this year can be expected to display similar traits.

All years ending in an odd number are Yin and the ones with an even number ending are considered to be the Yang forms according to the Chinese methods of the calendar cycle. Therefore the Ox year 2009 will have Yin forms along with the character of the Ox. Ox characterizes a dependable, patient, methodical and calm, hardworking, materialistic as well as an ambitious character. The Ox years so far have been 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and now 2009 followed by 2021 (according to the 12 year cycle).

People born in the Chinese New Year of the Ox, 2009 will preponderantly have the below mentioned traits in their character: Leadership qualities, dependable, great organizers, loyal, patient as well as strong and responsible. They are also some of the best people one can have as colleagues in the work place as they are believed to possess strong work ethics and display their creative side as well, especially when it comes to decorating their home.

Since the people born in the Ox year are also trusted to be reliable and logical, people generally turn towards them for suggestions and guidance. Their honesty and eye for details also helps them to prove their worth both in the workplace as well as in their personal lives.

However there are a few negative traits associated with the character of the Ox that also is reflected through the people born in the ox years. Attributes like being narrow minded, stubborn, with low public relations skills and also very far from being emotional are generally associated with people born in this year.

### **New Items at Witch SuperCenter**

**Black Stone Runes -**

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=19&products\\_id=292](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=19&products_id=292)

**Tarot Bags & Drawstring Pouches -**

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=20](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=20)

**Celtic Jewelry -** [http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=23](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=23)

**Aromatherapy Diffuser Pendants -**

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=23](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=23)

**Hand Carved Pentacle Altar Table -**

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=26&products\\_id=354](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=26&products_id=354)

**Fairy Essential Oil Bottle Pendant -**

[http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=375](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=375)

To see all of our new items, visit [http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=products\\_new](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=products_new)

## Witch SuperCenter January Sale Items

**Divination eBook** – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

**Rose Quartz Drop Pendulum** – Regular Price \$17.99, Sale Price \$15.99

**Soapstone Mortar & Pestle Set** – Regular Price \$18.99, Sale Price \$16.99

**Triple Moon & Pentacle Soapstone Box** – Regular Price \$19.99, Sale Price \$17.99

**Herbal Immune Booster 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

**Red Clover** - Earth/Mercury, Gender - Feminine, Parts Used - The whole Herb, Magickal Properties - Protection, Mental Clarity, Money and Luck, Uses - The three-leafed type is used for protection, carry as a sachet or amulet, the four-leafed type is used as an amulet or sachet for luck, attracting money and keeping your head about you.

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

**Onyx** - Onyx is thought to increase regeneration, happiness, intuition and one's instincts. It is also told to decrease sexual desire, and to aid in changing bad habits.

The shapes or patterns that onyx holds inside it have led some to suggest that Onyx has a picture in it that tells a story or carries a lesson. Lore tells us that an onyx will retain memory of the physical occurrences surrounding a person. A strong stone to use in psychic work as it tells the story of the wearer.

A strength-giving stone, good for athletes or people under extreme mental and emotional stress. It brings balance to mind or body as well as strength of mind. Onyx is a wonderful stone for those who are flighty by nature, as it will help ground and focus your attention. A strengthening stone that can help you approach a lesson or task with greater self-confidence. It is highly recommended that Onyx be used in conjunction with pearls and diamonds to increase their own metaphysical qualities.

Onyx must be laid directly on the body or worn over a long period of time as it's power develops quite slowly. It is known to be particularly helpful with skin ailments, healing infected wounds as well as fungal infections, inflammation and even sunburn. Pat the affected skin with onyx water several times during the day and cover with an onyx water compress at night.

Due to the fact that onyx needs time to develop its full power, it should be discharged once a week under running water, and if used for a long period of time, it should be placed in the earth overnight once a month. This will regenerate it to help keep it's energy strong.

## **Rune of the Month**

◇ **Ingwaz** (NG: Ing, the earth god.) - Male fertility, gestation, internal growth. Common virtues, common sense, simple strengths, family love, caring, human warmth, the home. Rest stage, a time of relief, of no anxiety. A time when all loose strings are tied and you are free to move in a new direction. Listen to yourself. Ingwaz Merkstave (Ingwaz cannot be reversed, but may lie in opposition): Impotence, movement without change. Production, toil, labor, work.

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 Chariot** - The Chariot symbolizes conflict and victory. It also represents unknown forces pulling you forward quickly. Positively associated with triumph, movement, change, self-belief, assertiveness, and good news. Negatively associated with rage, tyranny, over-inflated ego, selfishness, arrogance, delays, and frustration.

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**

### *Moon Phase*

**Waxing Moon** - beginnings, health, beauty, fertility, psychic awareness, positive magick

**Full Moon** - all positive spells, protection, love, healing, money, travel, purification

**Waning Moon** - banishment, disease, negative thoughts, jealousy, hurt, renewal

**New Moon** - new ventures, new beginnings, love, romance, health, job hunting, exploring and understanding our angers and passions

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)