



## January Newsletter

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### Important January Dates

(All times are CDT)

#### **December 26, 8:38 am until January 15, 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. 15, 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

## **December 31, 1:22 pm - Lunar Eclipse**

### ***Lunar Eclipse in Cancer***

We bid farewell to 2009 under a Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse in Cancer. This offers the appropriate rhythm for contemplation, reorganization, and review as the Moon now begins to lose its fullness, thus the waning phase.

The requested release in the two weeks ahead gears up for the upcoming Solar Eclipse on the New Moon of January 15th, where the opportunities for new beginnings and fresh starts will be at our fingertips. But first, as Mercury continues to retrograde until January 15th, along with Mars doing the same until March 10th, reassessments and cleansing are smart undertakings.

The next two weeks until the New Moon in Capricorn grants us Earthlings the necessary time to make assessments of the activities within our lives of the previous two since December 16th. Looking to our natal birth charts will tell us on an individual level what areas of life we should apply focus and energy.

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

### ***New Year's Spell***

A pen  
White paper  
A clear glass of water.

Write down, as simply as you can, your biggest hope for the year.

Be it - A NEW JOB  
or TO SAVE MONEY  
or TO FALL IN LOVE  
etc etc.

Write it down on a piece of plain white paper, so that the writing fits under the base of the glass. at 11:11 am on New Year's Day place the glass, full of water, over the writing, and leave on a window sill. The theory is, that the water will magnify your hope, making the universe aware of it and the legend of the angels says that it will come true.

## **January 15, 1:11 am - New Moon**

### ***New Moon in Capricorn***

This New Moon ushers in the sign of Capricorn ruled by Saturn. Saturn was the Roman god of agriculture. The name Saturn is believed to derive from the Latin 'satus' (sowing) and Saturn was thought of as a seed-god. As we know, seeds must be sown at their proper times and harvest can only occur at the time of their fruition. "We Reap what we Sow." Therefore Saturn is esoterically linked to Karma. In a way, Saturn provides the law enforcement in the cosmos, giving us exactly what we deserve. True, Saturn is responsible for many of the tests/obstacles that plague our lives. But on the other hand, Saturn, when connected to spiritual knowledge, disconnects from negative energy and through effort is therefore capable of delivering great wisdom.

Capricorn is an earth sign, and those born in this month have a strong need for material and financial security. Capricorn natives, like the goat are prepared to put up with harsh conditions in order to achieve their goals. They are usually disciplined, reliable, responsible, caring, thrifty, and prompt, with a tenacious ambition and a

desire for status. However, Capricorns often only believe in what their five senses convey to them (which is often an illusion) and have trouble seeing beyond the apparent...The bigger picture.

This month is devoted to healing our guilt, our anger, our regret. In Kabbalah, it is taught that the most destructive process that leads to bad Karma, begins with the 'evil eye' of temptation because "What the eyes sees the heart desires." It is suggested that this is why we have two eyes in order to constantly discern what to accept in life, and what to reject. As hard as it is, we must direct our ('evil') eye towards ourselves to subdue our ego, while directing our ('good') eye towards perfecting outer reality in any way we can, to heal our world.

Healing Keyword: TO REFINE and Correct your quality of Faith- Trust and Surrender through:

- \* Transmuting negative feelings of anger, hurt and regret by understanding that anger grows from a lack of spiritual faith.
- \* Trusting and believing that the deepest pain often precedes the greatest awakenings. Open up to others, allowing yourself to show emotion.
- \* Resisting the temptation to manipulate for our own desires.
- \* Nurturing yourself and ASKING for HEALING.
- \* Being grateful for what blessings you have received.

### **January 15, 1:07 am - Solar Eclipse**

The first solar eclipse of 2010 is an annular eclipse of the Sun, at the New Moon in Capricorn on January 15th. This eclipse will be visible over a wide pathway, allowing millions in Africa, Europe and Asia to see it. It will therefore be of considerable significance, as the more visible the eclipse, the more powerful its effects on us earthlings. Unfortunately no eclipse is visible from the Americas, Western Europe, or Australia.

This eclipse occurs at 25°01' of Capricorn, the sign of the Sea Goat, in conjunction with Venus on the day that Mercury turns direct after several weeks of retrograde motion. So it should be beneficent and pleasurable, releasing built-up tension, and leading strongly towards a brand new beginning for the world and its people.

The solar eclipse occupies the 26th degree of Capricorn, conjunct the Fixed Star, Terebellum on the back of the Centaur. This degree has a fondness for nature and freedom, with a love of deep thought. It gives strength, power and a tireless spirit, combined with cunning wit and a natural control of animals. It is also fond of luxury, but can fall subject to the desire for drugs, sex and other pleasures of the senses. This star can stimulate a rise in life, which may be followed by disgrace. However, it is associated by cabbalists with the sixth Tarot Trump, The Lovers, forcing a radical change of perspective. Love is a force that makes us choose and decide for reasons we often can't understand; it urges us to surrender control to a higher power.

Solar eclipses don't often pass over populated areas, but when they do, as in this case, they appear to have significant disruptive effects on the people and nations concerned (e.g., economic or political crises, civil unrest). Africa, Sri Lanka, and East Asia contain many flashpoints, so let us hope that no big flareups occur. Solar Eclipses also seem either to trigger or amplify natural events in the regions they affect (e.g., severe weather, earthquakes). Whether this effect is an astrological one or not, is a moot point, though recent scientific work on the effects of the Moon on earthquakes and other terrestrial phenomena is interesting. No doubt they would hasten to deny any astrological effect! The eclipse being in Capricorn means that people with Cardinal signs (Cancer; Libra; Capricorn; Aries) featured in their birth charts are more likely to be affected. The next eclipse of the Sun will be on July 11th, 2010.

**January 30, 12:18 am - Full Moon**

### ***The Cold Moon***

Many Native American tribes name the months or "Moons" based on important local natural events. To the Cherokee, January is the Cold Moon. Fierce northern air howls down to strip the heat from the world. To the Choctaw, this is the Cooking Moon. Dried fruits, vegetables and meat from storage help the tribe survive the winter, but they take a long time to cook. To the Dakota Sioux, this is the Moon of the Terrible. Not only can winters on the plains be devastating, but many legends relate dire events--and this is a time of year for telling stories.

January is the peak of winter. The nights are long and dark. The weather is harsh and cold. Honor this time by working with its quiet, introspective energy. Now is a good time to make warm winter clothes if you knit, crochet or sew. Cook foods that take a long time to prepare, such as soups and slow-cooker recipes or bake winter root vegetables such as potatoes and turnips. Large meat dishes such as ham and turkey are also appropriate.

For ritual themes, consider the home and hearth. Tell stories to create the framework of a ritual or to socialize afterward.

~ Elizabeth Barnette

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### **Yule Sale Ending Soon**

**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](http://WitchSuperCenter.com)

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

**12 eBook Package -** [http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=9](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](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](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](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](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](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](http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=products_new)

## Witch SuperCenter January Sale Items

**Large Celtic Knot Mortar & Pestle Set** – Regular Price \$24.99, Sale Price \$21.99

**Wicca Starter Kit w/Love Spell** – Regular Price \$32.99, Sale Price \$27.99

**Magickal Herbs eBook** – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

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

**Pentacle Wind Chime** – Regular Price - \$14.99, Sale Price \$12.79

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

**Comfrey** - Air/Saturn, Gender - Feminine, Parts Used - The Whole Herb, Magickal Properties - Protection, Uses - A strong herb for protection from any type of negativity around you, for traveling and for protection in the astral realms.

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

**Moldavite** - A deep green silica-based tektite (meteorite) that fell to Earth about 15 million years ago. Aids alignment with Higher Self. Balancing and healing for physical body/mind. Aids in channeling extraterrestrial and inter-dimensional sources.

It is interesting to note that the gemstone Moldavite has been associated with the legendary tone of the Holy Grail, an 'emerald' said to have fallen from the sky, as well as a talisman for the healing of the Earth. Legend tells us that exposure to this stone was said to set the beholder upon the spiritual road to self discovery and personal enlightenment.

Moldavite harmonizes well with many gemstones, but is particularly strong with amethyst, citrine, tanzanite, charoite and larimar...it is told that moldavite will supercharge and spiritualize the energies of whatever stones one uses with it.

Many find moldavite to be extremely transformative when worn in jewelry form. This may be due to the manner in which the energy flows in and out of our bodies. As rings or earrings, the gem is placed on meridian points of our energy bodies, and the focused moldavite energies flow throughout our entire system, raising our vibration levels. This is also true of pendants which can be worn long over the heart chakra, or short over the throat chakra or even in between.

Exposure to the moldavite begins a process of energetic resonance in which the vibratory rate of our entire being is increased, again bringing us to why this is such a transformative gemstone.

## 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 Sun** - The Sun shines down on everything, giving warmth, life and joy. The Sun is the light at the end of the tunnel, the source of all that is wished for. Positively associated with happiness, greatness, enlightenment, vitality, good health, love, and fulfillment. Negatively associated with misjudgment, delays, potential failure, and inflated ego.

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**

### ***Numbers***

**One** - the number of essence, it is the symbol of identity, of equality, of existence, of conservation and of general harmony. Being without parts, a single unit announces order, peace and tranquility, which are founded on a unity of sentiments; consequently, one is a good principle. One represents new beginnings, new happenings, new potentials, self-completeness, beginnings, creativity, the individual and the positive. It represents The Universe, The Source, All.

**Two** - the origin of contrasts, it is the symbol of diversity, of inequality, of division and of separation. Two is an evil principle, a number of bad omens, characterizing disorder, confusion and change. Two represents balances, a balance of energy, gentleness, nature, imagination, romance, couples and love. It represents the Goddess and God working in harmony.

**Three** - the first unequal; it is the number containing the most sublime mysteries, for everything is composed of three substances. It represents divinity, the soul of the world, the spirit of man. It is meditation, atonement, completeness--beginning, middle and end. Three represents creativity, activity, results, ambition, control and authority over others and moving forward. It represents the Goddess' aspects - Maiden, Mother and Crone

**Four** - the first mathematical power, is also one of the chief elements. It represents the generating virtue, from which come all combinations; it is the perfect of numbers; it is the root of all things. This number gives the human soul its eternal nature. Four represents foundation, building, structure, stability, rest and health. It represents the elements.

**Five** - the number five has a peculiar force in sacred explanations: it is everything; it stops the power of poisons, and renders evil spirits powerless. Five represents action, energy, conflict, opposition, versatility, communication and impulsiveness. It represents the senses and the pentagram.

**Six** - a fortunate number, the number of luck and chance. It derives its merit from the first sculptors having divided the face into six portions. Six represents kindness, luxury, love, friendship, money, art, affection and health.

**Seven** - a number that is very powerful for good or for evil. It is the number of the entire cosmos. Seven especially belongs to sacred things. Seven represents spirituality, mysticism, imagination, psychic power, secrets, travel, change, intuition and clairvoyance. It represents power, protection and magick.

**Eight** - the number eight is the first cube, that is to say, squared in all senses, as a die, proceeding from its base two, an even number. Eight represents strength, perfection, karma, stability, intensity, strength, loneliness, hidden feelings, secrets, institutions, hospitals, health and long term illnesses. It is sacred to the God and is the number of Sabbats in a year.

**Nine** - the square of three being nine, nine is regarded as the extent to which numbers would go with all others being embraced and revolving within it, but recommences a fresh series capable of infinite expansion. Nine is regarded as sacred and represents fruition, accomplishment, courage, completion, high spirituality and is a good number to incorporate in all spells. Nine is a number sacred to the Goddess.

**Thirteen** - the number of Esbats in a year, i.e. the number of full moons in a year.

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**

### ***Home Protection Spell***

Start by mixing water and salt, two elements of magic. Consecrate them. Use garlic salt and add powdered rosemary if you need to clear out ghosts or spirits. Begin at the main entrance of the house or apartment. Sprinkle some of the consecrated water by dipping your fingers in it and making the sign of the pentacle. Say:

*Evil shall leave but not enter.*

Use a firm voice. Make it a commandment, with all of your power behind it. Proceed counterclockwise through the house, repeating the procedure in every corner of each room, at all the windows, doors and mirrors. Don't forget telephones, computers with active modems, fax machines, intercoms, and televisions that are connected to the Internet. It doesn't hurt to do the mailbox, too. Make the downward pentacle, with your left hand, if this feels right to you. Or the upward pentacle with your right hand. Either will work. Repeat the spell annually, or whenever you feel in need of it. It is important to perform a spell like this one on a new home before you move into it.

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)