



July Newsletter

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Important July Dates

(All times are CST/CDT)

June 26, 8:08 am to July 20, 1:22 pm - Mercury Retrograde

Mercury is retrograde from July 26 through July 20. He enters the retrograde shadow on July 9 (when he will hit 13 degrees of Cancer, the degree at which he will turn around) and will leave the far side of the shadow August 20 (when he will cross 23 Cancer, the degree at which he stations retrograde).

When the planet that rules communication and transportation goes backward (it's an optical illusion), pay extra attention to anything related to those themes. Messages go astray; misunderstandings and confusion abound; technology malfunctions; traffic snarls; travel gets delayed. Postpone launching major projects, signing major contracts and buying big-ticket items. Double-check fine print, backup your data and allow lots of extra time when you're on the road.

This retrograde, like all of the others this year, has Mercury in a water sign. This element is not naturally comfortable for the winged messenger, who prefers an environment that allows him to move nimbly and quickly. When he's in water, confusion and mistaken thinking will intensify. It will be easy to pick up undercurrents or other people's thoughts and assume that they are yours.

Watch for a rise in expression of emotions, sentimentality, tenderness, touchiness, crabbiness and taking things personally. You may get a second go at exploring how you or someone else felt about recent events.

Because Mercury is making a grand trine to Saturn (structure, rules, commitment, responsibility) and Neptune (illusion, compassion, transcendence) during much of his retrograde, you may experience intense connections without speaking a word. You may have sensations of profound but faceless love and understanding the big picture, without being able to articulate it.

This is an excellent time to investigate and research, finish old business, clean up paperwork and get in touch with people you haven't talked to in a while. Thanks to the sonar properties Mercury has in water, you may effortlessly soak up a lot of useful information -- or catch it as it floats by you. Cast a wide net and explore!

July 4 - Independence Day

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at his feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly...
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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July 8, 2:14 am - New Moon

On July 8th, 2013 at 16 degrees Cancer, the July New Moon will cause an emotional longing for connection to energy and experiences from times gone by. There is an extremely strong spiritual and healing focus with this New Moon, as your higher self encourages your inner self to stand up for what you believe in, and tries to show you how to reconnect with old ways of finding empowerment. This cycle will be an elusive and confusing one for those who are looking towards others to answer the tough questions and tell them what to do. This cycle is a blending of time spent on mutual healing in a group setting, with an equal amount of time spent in solitude, learning to trust in and follow your intuitive instincts. With a high amount of Water Element, pretending to be happy in situations that are not meeting your expectations will be difficult. There will be emotional reactions where others are not being consistent and even tougher emotional climates where you feel you are in untrustworthy and unreliable situations. As there is a high amount of Cardinal Mode, your aim will be to gain control of situations that are slipping out of your grasp. Where there has been stagnation, you will endeavor to find ways of getting things moving, but it is how you choose to kick-start situations that will be the most telling. If you choose to attempt to control others with ultimatums and emotional dramatics, you can expect nothing less than similar treatment in return.

This New Moon forms easement aspects to Chiron and the North Node, highlighting not only the need for healing in order to move on, but also the importance of teaching and guiding others to assist them in their healing. Venus in Leo forms a trine with Uranus in Aries, but also forms a quincunx with Chiron and a square with the Nodes. You need to be careful how you choose to love others this New Moon, as some will be more open to your advice and supportive nurturing than others. Don't force yourself where you're not welcome and respect the boundary reactions of those around you. You can easily offend and be offended here, and be a bit oblivious as to why another is upset at your actions, or what has caused another's negative reaction towards you. This insecurity and uncertainty about others' intentions and reactions, makes it easy to become self-righteous and defensive of self, as a means of personal justification. There is also the other possibility that too much self-focus can cause conflict as others needs will be ignored. It is important to focus a balanced amount of energy on your needs, the needs of others, and knowing when to follow your inner guidance over seeking the external guidance from others.

Jupiter, freshly into Cancer, forms a grand trine aspect with Saturn and Neptune, whilst also forming a conjunction to Black Moon Lilith. Black Moon Lilith adds a touch of retribution desire to a rather spiritually intense combination, so you will need to work hard at dealing with life events that bring up unresolved feelings of anger and hatred. Saturn and Neptune are practicality and limitations blending with limitless potential and ancient intuitive yearning. This combination is causing you to discover more about your higher self and is encouraging you to look for possible ways of expressing your true potential within your present existence. Jupiter will enhance these qualities and encourage you to seek the highest of what is possible regarding your spiritual

connection, with the downside being working through the pain of past experience, and dealing with the sensitivity you are experiencing at the moment to the words and actions of those around you. There is a firm desire for emotional perfection here, of both self and others, with there being little tolerance for any sort of behavior that moves beyond your chosen moral and ethical system. Black Moon Lilith does indicate taking action against oppression and any form of sexism, racism, or abuse – both past and present. But with such sensitive potential in the skies, it will be easy to exaggerate a situation, making it a far bigger problem than what it really is. Personal honesty is a must when making judgments about people and situations, as decisions made in the heat of the moment can be regrettable once calm is restored. This energy is far better spent healing old wounds than working through new wounds, simply due to the heightened emotional intensity of the cycle.

There is a strong focus this cycle on the perfection of the past, leaving you prone to over-romanticizing what was whilst dealing with the present. There will be many intuitive and cosmic signs as the cycle unfolds, with you experiencing times of déjà-vu, synchronicity and unusual reminders of past events and people. Whilst this is not uncommon during Mercury retrograde, there will be a surreal edge to circumstances this cycle, and a thinning of the veil between realms. Your dream energy will be extremely strong, no doubt extending from the Capricorn Full Moon, and your dreams will be full of fascinating signs and symbols. Work with the universal symbols in play during your dreams, such as steps, snakes, clouds and the like, but pay attention to colors, numbers and how you feel upon waking, as further clues as to the meaning of your dreams. You can also find yourself drawn to alternative healing methods such as crystals, chakras, colors, or nutrition.

Enjoy the healing possibility of this cycle and do your best to find positive ways of working through your insecurities. Remind yourself that there is no achievable perfection, that perfection in this lifetime is being the very best you that you can manage with what you are working with at the time. Take note of your dreams, and follow inspiration where it takes you regarding alternative ways of finding balance and calm. Make sure that personal time and space is a priority, as it will be needed to decipher the increased flow of psychic input, but also make sure that you allow time to assist and guide others as they seek your support. Be wary of psychic vampires who will drain your energy by expecting you to solve all of their problems for them, and avoid those who know no better way of control games than emotional manipulation.

July 22, 1:16 pm - Full Moon

Blessing Moon

For the July Full Moon, explore your intuitive gifts. One way to gain this insight is through your dreams. Charge a silver charm or a stone that you can tuck into your pillow or under your mattress, or make a dream pillow stuffed with lavender, jasmine or honeysuckle. If you prefer, use aromatherapy and breathe the scent of these flowers in essential oil form. Meditate before going to sleep and focus on receiving insight from your dreams. But remember that restful sleep is important, so focus on your dreams being peaceful and not disruptive.

*By light of Moon my dreams are clear
The goddess whispers in my ear
By light of Moon my sleep is blessed
And I will wake from peaceful rest.*

~ Ember Grant in [Llewellyn's 2013 Witches' Datebook](#)

August 1 - Lughnasadh/Lammas

Lughnasadh

Animals/Mythical Creatures – griffins, basilisks, roosters, calves, centaurs, phoenix

Gemstones – aventurine, citrine, peridot, sardonyx, yellow diamonds and citrine

Incense/Oil – wood aloes, rose, rose hips, rosemary, chamomile, eucalyptus, safflower, corn, passionflower, frankincense, sandalwood

Colors/Candles – red, orange, golden yellow, green, light brown, gold, bronze, gray

Tools/Symbols/Decorations – corn, cornucopias, red, yellow flowers, sheaves of grain (wheat, barley, oats), first fruits/vegetables of garden labor, corn dollies, baskets of bread, spear, cauldron, sickle, scythe, threshing tools, sacred loaf of bread, harvested herbs, bonfires, bilberries, God figures made of bread or cookie dough, phallic symbols

Goddesses – the Mother, Dana (Lugh's wife & queen), Tailltiu (Welsh-Scottish), Demeter (Greek), Ceres (Roman grain goddess honored at Ceresalia), the Barley Mother, Seelu (Cherokee), Corn Mother, Isis (Her birthday is celebrated about this time), Luna (Roman Moon Goddess), other agricultural Goddesses, the waxing Goddess

Gods – Lugh (Celtic, one of the Tuatha De Danaan), John Barleycorn, Arianrhod's golden haired son Lleu (Welsh God of the Sun & Corn where corn includes all grains, not just maize), Dagon (Phoenician Grain God), Tammuz/ Dummuzi (Sumerian), Dionysus, plus all sacrificial Gods who willingly shed blood/give their life that their people/lands may prosper, all vegetation Gods & Tanus (Gaulish Thunder God), Taranis, (Romano-Celtic Thunder God), Tina, (Etruscan-Thunder God), the waning God

Essence – fruitfulness, reaping, prosperity, reverence, purification, transformation, change, The Bread of Life, The Chalice of Plenty, The Ever-flowing Cup, the Groaning Board (Table of Plenty)

Dynamics/Meaning – Lugh's wedding to Mother Earth, Birth of Lugh; Death of Lugh, Celtic Grain Festival

Purpose – honoring the parent deities, first harvest festival, first fruits grains & drink to the Goddess in appreciation of Her bounty, offering loaves of sacred bread in the form of the God (this is where the Gingerbread Man originated!)

Rituals/Magick – astrology, prosperity, generosity, continued success, good fortune, abundance, magickal picnic, meditate & visualize yourself completing a project you've started

Customs – games, the traditional riding of poles/staves, country fairs, breaking bread with friends, making corn dollies, harvesting herbs for charms/rituals, Lughnasadh fire with sacred wood & dried herbs, feasting, competitions, Lammas towers (fire-building team competitions), spear tossing, gathering flowers for crowns, fencing/swordplay, games of skill, martial sports, chariot races, handfastings, trial marriages, dancing 'round a corn mother (doll)

Foods – loaves of homemade wheat, oat, & corn bread, barley cakes, corn, potatoes, summer squash, nuts, acorns, wild berries (any type), apples, rice, pears, berry pies, elderberry wine, crab apples, mead, crab, blackberries, meadowsweet tea, grapes, cider, beer

Herbs – grain, acacia, heather, ginseng, sloe, cornstalks, cyclamen, fenugreek, aloes, frankincense, sunflower, hollyhock, oak leaf, wheat, myrtle

Element/Gender – fire/female

Threshold – noon

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

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Witch SuperCenter July Sale Items

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

Deluxe Wicca Starter Kit w/Love Spell - Regular Price - \$81.99, Sale Price - \$75.99

Scrying Mirror - Regular Price - \$14.99, Sale Price - \$10.99

Magick Potions eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99

Herbal Headache 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

Herb of the Month

Rue - Element - Fire, Planet - Saturn, Gender - Masculine, Parts Used - Top part of plant, Magickal Properties - Repentance, Seeing mistakes. Banishment, Uses - Hang this dried herb indoors from the ceiling to the floor to help others and yourself see and understand their mistakes, preferably in an inconspicuous place, burn for banishing any type of negativity or bad habits you may want to eliminate.

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=120

Stone of the Month

Red Jasper - passion, blood magick, protection from nightmares (fire). It is known to promote beauty and grace. Believe it or not, it can ease the pain of childbirth!!! It is protective and especially useful in defensive magick – use this stone to send negativity directed at you back to the original sender. Increases mental processes and forms a barrier against dangerous desires and whims. It is also a great all-around good luck stone.

Rune of the Month

Mehwaz (E: Horse, two horses.) – Transportation. May represent a horse, car, plane, boat or other vehicle. Movement and change for the better. Gradual development and steady progress are indicated. Harmony, teamwork, trust, loyalty. An ideal marriage or partnership. Confirmation beyond doubt is found in the meanings of the runes around it. Ehwaz Reversed or Merkstave: This is not really a negative rune. A change is perhaps craved. Feeling restless or confined in a situation. Reckless haste, disharmony, mistrust, betrayal.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=124

Tarot Card of the Month

The Five of Swords

The Five of Swords is about self-interest. Society tells us to think of others, yet we resist. How we can ignore our own concerns and still survive? This dilemma comes from our definition of self. If we view our self as our personality/body, our interests become those that relate to that self. Do I have enough to eat? Am I happy? Do I have all I want?

We may expand our concern to those we love, but, then, how can we stop there? We are connected to everyone in the long run. In truth, our self is the world. What we do to that world, we do to ourselves. This understanding is so basic, but so infuriatingly easy to forget day-to-day.

In readings, the Five of Swords can mean that you or someone else is forgetting this larger view of self. You are defining your interests too narrowly. If you try to get ahead in isolation, your actions will come back to haunt you later, one way or the other.

Sometimes this card implies a need to put your own interests first. If you are being abused or taken advantage of, you must get free. If you are worn out by demands, take care of yourself. If it is your turn, step forward and claim your due. Just be aware that if you hurt others in the process, your victory will not feel complete.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=107

Correspondence of the Month

Animals

Antelope – instinct, survival, be cautious

Bat – mental clarity, insight, adaptation, abolishment of fears

Bear – strength, defense against evil and negativity, stamina, mystery

Beaver – focus, planning, working in unison

Bison – prosperity, survival, fertility

Bobcat – vigilance, suspicion, solitude

Butterfly – joy, transformation

Cat – independence, protection, spiritual communication, self-confidence

Cheetah – swiftness, harmony

Cougar – cunning, freedom, balance

Cow – alert, contentment, love, stubbornness

Coyote – cunning, heightened instinct, preservation, dream guide

Crab – escape, emotions, usefulness

Deer – gentleness, grace, innocence, appreciation

Dingo – companionship, loyalty, truth

Donkey – stubbornness, decisions, opinions

Dog – guidance, loyalty, unconditional companionship, trust

Dolphin – change, wisdom, harmony, communication

Dugong – gentleness, emotions

Echidna – determination, single-minded, legends

Elephant – strength, ancient power, confidence, mental grounding

Emu – shyness, abundance, wisdom

Fox – stealth, wisdom, ability to detect true or underlying intent

Giraffe – communication, intuition
Goat – confidence, independence
Guinea Pig – gentleness, love, responsibility
Gull – messenger, responsibility, friendship
Horse – symbolic of free spirit, stamina, friendship and faith
Jaguar – fearless, psychic sight
Kangaroo – safety, protector of the young
Kite – all-seeing, clarity, prophecy
Kiwi – ancient wisdom, truth, understanding
Koala – determination, quiet strength
Leopard – sensitivity, silence, shadows
Lion – concentration, release of stress, relaxation, family strength
Llama – overcoming obstacles, comforting
Lynx – secrets, silence
Mole – knowledge, independence, sensitivity
Monkey – playfulness, energy, resourceful, clever
Octopus – intelligence, barriers
Opossum – sensibility, recovery
Orca – divination, healing, protector
Otter – joy, playfulness, sharing
Panda – connections, balance, adaptability
Panther – astral travel, death, rebirth
Polar Bear – solitude, transformation, dreams
Platypus – ancient, uniqueness
Rabbit – swiftness, gentle of nature, intuitive
Raccoon – creative problem solving, curiosity, bravery, something new ahead
Seahorse – creativity, inspiration, innocence
Seal – protection, harmony, survival
Shark – past knowledge, remorselessness, savior
Sheep – fertility, abundance, confidence
Squirrel – resourcefulness, warning, discovery
Starfish – beauty, regeneration, moon magick
Sting Ray – emotions, understanding differences
Tiger – energy, inner strength, power, mental and spiritual awareness
Weasel – ingenuity, slyness, curiosity, conniving, mistrust
Whale – longevity of life and love, strengthening family bonds, emotional clarity
Wolf – wisdom, spiritual leader, introspective of transformation
Wombat – strength, determination, resourcefulness
Zebra – individuals, clarity

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our Magickal Correspondences eBook at

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

Spell of the Month

Book of Shadows Consecration

The Book of Shadows is your own personal journal, so to speak. In it, write down spells and rituals and ceremonies you collect. In the beginning, record the basic rituals of spell binding, casting a circle, etc. After more practice and study, start creating your own rituals.

Your Book of Shadows can be anything. I have several large, three ring binders. I find it easy to add to them and reorganize them as I receive more information. Some people prefer more elaborate ones like hard-backed black books with "Book of Shadows" engraved on the cover in gold. Everyone has a different type of book. You can make your own from recycled paper and decorate the cover. You can use a plain journal bought from a store, it's up to you.

The Book of Shadows is a sacred thing. Think of it as your Craft Bible. Do not let anyone outside of your coven or trusted group of friends use or look at your book. By purifying and blessing your Book, you are also blessing everything you write in it from this day forth. Arrange to perform this ritual during a waxing moon (the time between a New Moon and a Full Moon). Cast a circle and place your Book of Shadows on the altar or on the floor in the center of the circle. Sit in front of it facing NORTH. Visualize a beam of light shining down from the Heavens, and a beam of light from the top of your head, meeting as one. (If this is a group ritual, visualize a cone of light rising from the group.) Pick up the book and take it to the NORTH.

"I consecrate this Book of Shadows,
With EARTH so that it may be a fitting repository
For my magickal energy."

Pass the book over a bowl of salt three times. Say this each time at all the points, replacing EARTH with AIR, WATER, and FIRE. In the WEST, pass the book over a bowl of water. In the SOUTH, pass it over a candle (be careful not to burn your book!), and in the EAST, blow on the book. Place the book on the altar and continue visualization. Slowly lower this cone of energy until it is absorbed into the book. Say:

"I consecrate this Book of Shadows with SPIRIT.
So that it may be a fitting repository
For my magickal energy.
So Mote It Be."

Open the circle in the usual way. Your Book of Shadows is now ready for use!

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