



July Newsletter

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Important July Dates

(All times are CDT)

July 4 – Independence Day

Why not take a few minutes on this day to strengthen your own independence and self-reliance by creating an Independence Altar and empowering it with the following Independence Chant:

" THOU of an independent mind,
With soul resolv'd, with soul resign'd;
Prepar'd Power's proudest frown to brave,
Who wilt not be, nor have a slave;
Virtue alone who dost revere,
Thy own reproach alone dost fear,
Approach this shrine, and worship here." Robert Burns

July 12, 9:48 pm – New Moon, Solar Eclipse

The New Moon on Thursday July 12, 2018 at 20° Cancer is a partial solar eclipse. The Solar Eclipse July 2018 astrology is influenced by a powerful opposition to minor planet Pluto. This indicates some sort of crisis with your self-esteem, a relationship or an event. An equally intense fixed star brings the potential for neurotic distress triggered by a deeply buried subconscious fear of disaster.

The July 2018 Solar Eclipse signals the right time to transform something in your life holding you back from happiness and success. A fortunate Grand Trine configuration allows you to apply this transformation to your love life, finances or creative work. Hard work and determination will unleash the potential and opportunity held within the grand trine to help avert a personal crisis.

Solar Eclipse Meaning

A solar eclipse is just like a regular new moon where the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun. However, a solar eclipse is more powerful because the Moon darkens the Sun. Solar eclipse July 2018 is a partial solar eclipse so most of the Sun will still be visible. The new moon represents the end of one cycle and the beginning of a new cycle. A new moon influence lasts for four weeks but a solar eclipse usually lasts about six months. However, there are two solar eclipses in this eclipse series. The following solar eclipse on August 11 will supersede the July 12 solar eclipse.

The strongest and most important aspect in astrology is Sun conjunct Moon. It means all possibilities are on the table and you can rightly put yourself in the forefront of new plans for the future. It is time to question your old habits and behaviors as you search for new and inventive ways to make progress. This is the ideal time to make a fresh start, so write your new goals down on a sheet of paper. The best time for making a new start is from the solar eclipse to the July 27 Lunar Eclipse.

The star Castor conjunct Solar Eclipse July 2018 suggests misfortune and neurotic distress from deeply buried subconscious fear of disaster. The eclipse opposite Pluto retrograde intensifies any distress or fears. Pluto also means you could be confronted by a crisis that forces you to

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take a serious look at an area of your life that is holding you back from happiness and success. Powerful forces are at play and they are out of your control. So the only way forward is to surrender your power and control to a higher force. Trust in instincts and trust in your spirit guides.

Pluto urges you to transform that negative, destructive or limiting part of your life. The fortunate grand trine allows you to apply this transformation to your love life, finances or creative work. The Solar eclipse July 2018 astrology is certainly intense but only lasts the four weeks until the August 11 solar eclipse. The grand trine shows potential and opportunity but needs conscious effort and hard work to manifest and avert a personal crisis. Remember to get started on your transformation before the July 27 lunar eclipse.

July 26, 12:02 am to August 18, 11:25 pm – Mercury Retrograde

Mercury retrograde 2018 starts on July 26 at 23° Leo and ends on August 19 at 11° Leo. Mercury retrograde July 2018 could be an upsetting time because of unexpected changes making you nervous and angry. Stationary Mercury retrograde makes no planetary aspects and no fixed star conjunctions. But a very challenging T-square aspect pattern on that day between the Sun, Mars and Uranus will exacerbate the standard Mercury retrograde problems like communication misunderstanding and the breakdown of mechanical and electrical machines.

Mercury retrograde July 2018 comes with an increased risk of arguments, conflict and accidents. Use common sense, caution and patience to avoid rash actions, over reactions and risk taking. Be ready for the unexpected by staying open-minded and flexible. This will make it easier to adjust your plans in response to changing circumstances. Mercury direct has a very calming influence that will return harmony to your relationships and your life in general.

July 27, 4:20 pm – Full Moon, Lunar Eclipse

Lavender Moon

Lavender is another one of our Gray Ladies in the garden. Add to that the lovely soft shades of purple flowers that appear over the course of summer and you have an ideal landscape flower, especially in a moonlit garden. In small gardens, gray and purple hues make a space feel less confined.

Plenty of varieties of lavender exist, but they all trace their origin the mountainous area of the Mediterranean. For a summer filled with lavender, start with *L. stoechas* or Spanish lavender that blooms in May. For June flowers, add English lavender in varieties of *Lavandula angustifolia* like 'Hidocote' and 'Munstead.' In July, the French lavenders take over with names like *Lavandula x intermedia* 'du Provence' or *Lavandula x intermedia* 'Grosso.'

This will provide an ongoing supply of lavender herb to use as a fungicide, a soothing fragrance for those sleepless nights, headache relief, or one of the most relaxing baths imaginable. Cleanse your ritual space with an infusion of lavender tea and use it to asperge participants as they step into your circle.

~ JD Hortwort in *Llewellyn's Witches' Datebook 2018*

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=1062

August 1– Lughnasadh

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), Tailtiu (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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Witchcraft Academy Online Witchcraft School

www.WitchcraftAcademy.com

Our Year and a Day Class covers most of the basics of Witchcraft. Each month, you will receive a package of Witchcraft Tools you will use to complete that month's 4 lessons. The link to the lessons will be emailed to you and sent with your package each month.



"I love getting my package each month. It's so convenient to have the supplies I need for the lessons mailed right to my house." Sherry P., Witchcraft Academy Student

...the first month package includes:

- A dip pen
- Magickal Ink
- 13 pages of linen paper
- 4 quarter candles
- The Wiccan Rede on linen paper

...the first month lessons are:

- Casting a Circle
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Each month for 12 months, a new package will arrive at your home and 4 new lessons will arrive in your email inbox. All for only \$25 a month. Please visit our web site for more details. www.WitchcraftAcademy.com

Witch SuperCenter July Sale Items

Money Spell Oil - Regular Price \$9.99, Sale Price \$8.99

Smokeless Smudging Spray, Cedar - Regular Price - \$6.99, Sale Price - \$5.99

The Sabbats eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99

Hibiscus Green Tea - Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price - \$4.99

Deluxe Wicca Starter Kit w/Money Spell - Regular Price \$95.99, Sale Price \$84.99

To see all of our sale items, visit

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=specials

Herb of the Month



Sea Salt – Water/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

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=120

Stone of the Month

Carnelian - This stone is excellent for increasing courage, especially in the shy. It helps to promote self-confidence while inducing peace. It offsets doubt and negativity. Carnelian is excellent for increasing sexual desires between couples and is very useful in spells relating to lust. It is very helpful in all forms of healing. It can also be used to guard against people who try to read your thoughts. Carnelian is associated with the 2nd Chakra, heightened sensuality, the abdomen, and the sign of Leo. It enhances physical energy, creativity, individuality, courage, and memory.



Not only dispelling negative energy in other stones, Carnelian is said to aid in removing negativity from the body, as well. It aids in past life recall, or finding a good mate. Carnelian is also known as the actor's stone, aiding in the creativity necessary for the dramatic arts.

Some very ancient metaphysical properties associated with Carnelian: In ancient roman tradition, pale red (or orange) carnelian is related to the feminine and darker red carnelian is considered masculine. It is considered extremely sensitive to oils, acid and sunlight, the color becoming brighter with exposure to the sun.

It is also said that a Carnelian stone may be used for scrying by placing the stone in the sun for a few minutes, before gazing into it. Carnelian is used as a blood purifier and to stop bleeding.

Wear Carnelian to protect against fear, envy, and to help to banish sorrow. Carnelian may be also worn to calm the temper, promoting a cool head in an argument. It is said to lend dignity, contentment, and blessings.

These are just a few of the metaphysical properties associated with this orange/red stone. Carry Carnelian with you, to assist in any of these areas.



Rune of the Month

Mannaz (M: Man, mankind.) – The Self; the individual or the human race. Your attitude toward others and their attitudes towards you; Friends and enemies, social order; Intelligence, forethought, create, skill, ability; Divine structure, intelligence, awareness; Expect to receive some sort of aid or cooperation now. Mannaz Reversed or Merkstave: Depression, mortality, blindness, self-delusion; Cunning, slyness, manipulation, craftiness, calculation; Expect no help now.

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 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

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

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Correspondence of the Month

Astrological Influences



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 problems 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.

Solar Eclipse – Dramatic moments both for their observers as well as for witches. In the past, witches were urged not to perform magick during eclipses. Today, many natural witches use the suggestive power of an eclipse to fuel spells involving banishments, including the destruction of disease. All forms of magick are acceptable, omens, psychic ability, Sun magick; Leo

Lunar Eclipse – An astrological almanac is useful here to check dates and times during the year when these occur. Choose long-term goals you wish to work on well ahead of these events. Eclipses represent the perfect union of Sun and Moon, therefore practically any type of magick is acceptable. Many working witches prefer to work with the Dark Goddesses during this time, correcting long-standing problems. Others lean toward the Shining Ones and fairy magick. All forms of magick are acceptable, Moon magick, omens, psychic ability; Cancer

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

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Spell of the Month

Spell Binding

"Hear me, O Goddess of the moon,
Hear me, and grant me success
In the ways of Magick.
Send to my spell
Thy powers of enchantment.
Assist me in all my endeavors.
Hear me, for I am a child of the moon,
Grant me the ancient power.
For thou art the Great Goddess,
Mistress of Magick, I worship thee!"

Chant and raise power. The above can be modified to be more personal.



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