



June Newsletter

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Important June Dates

(All times are CDT)

May 26, 10:48 am until Jun 19, 9:31 am – Mercury in Retrograde

Mercury, the cosmic trickster turns retrograde in Gemini, the sign of the Twins, sending communications, travel, appointments, mail and the www into a general snarlup! This awkward period begins a few days before the actual turning point (as Mercury slows) and lasts for three weeks or so, until June 19, 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 July 4, as he passes the point where he first turned retrograde. Mercury turns retrograde three times a year, as a rule, but 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.

What does Mercury affect?

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 people 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 therefore not wise to make important decisions while Mercury is retrograde, since it is very likely that these 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

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. 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.

June 3, 2:22 pm – New Moon

Pick Up Stones for Effective Planning

Begin with a walking meditation in which you wander along thinking of (or discussing) what you will need to do in building new structures and a new sense of security in them, look for small stones along the way. As you find one that appeals, take it along. When you return home, arrange the stones into a pattern that pleases you, stacking some of them, as you wish. You could do this outdoors or indoors, perhaps in a flower bed, or in a box of sand. As you place each stone, let it represent a part of your plan and intent for your life. You could mark the stones to help you remember what each represents (fine line permanent marking pens should do fine for this) or you could diagram your arrangement on paper and make notes. When you are finished, charge your intent with spiritual energy with this little chant:

*Stones designed by my intent
my path and duty now I see
by Sun and Moon I do resolve
my plan becomes reality
by all the power of three times three,
as I do will, so mote it be!*

June 15 – Father’s Day

Ever since I can remember
You have been the one
who picked me up when I would fall
lift me up when I was down
You are the one who
wiped away the tears
And made a smile magically appear.
You are the one who
loved me no matter what I did
And you are the one who
helped me to be what I am today
How can I ever tell you
how very much I love you

June 18, 2:30 pm – Full Moon

Sagittarius Moon

With Pluto and the Full Moon in the same degree as a final aspect, this is an excellent time to bring new influences into your life. The Moon goes void-of-course four hours after the Full Moon, so time the ritual accordingly. Sagittarius is the sign associated with the vast scope of the universe, grasping the big picture and expansiveness. Step out of your ruts, expand your point of view, study something new or embark on a new path.

Rather than a formal ritual, plan a small, symbolic amount of work at the exact moment of the Full Moon. Start a book on the study of Qabala, astrology or any subject you’ve been meaning to get around to. Start that new project, even if that just means laying out the pattern for a new robe or beginning to sand a new wand. If retail stores are open at the Full Moon, consider shopping for materials for your new magickal project or technique.

Since one characteristic of Sagittarius is biting off more than you can chew, be careful to pick a realistic project. Plan to read one book, not a dozen. If you go shopping, consider your finances carefully. Be realistic about how much time, money and energy you can devote to your new endeavor.

~ Magenta Griffith

June 20 – Litha – Summer Solstice

Litha

Animals/Mythical Creatures – wren, robin, horses, cattle, satyrs, faeries, firebird, dragon, thunderbird

Gemstones – lapis lazuli, diamond, tiger's eye, all green gemstones, especially emerald and jade

Incense/Oil – heliotrope, saffron, orange, frankincense & myrrh, wisteria, cinnamon, mint, rose, lemon, lavender, sandalwood, pine

Colors/Candles – blue, green, gold, yellow and red

Tools/Symbols/Decorations – the Sun, oak, birch & fir branches, sun flowers, lilies, red/maize/yellow or gold flower, love amulets, seashells, summer fruits & flowers, feather/flower door wreath, sun wheel, fire, circles of stone, sun dials and swords/blades, bird feathers, Witches' ladder

Goddesses – Mother Earth, Mother Nature, Venus, Aphrodite, Yemaya, Astarte, Freya, Hathor, Ishtar, all Goddesses of love, passion, beauty and the Sea, and Pregnant, lusty Goddesses, Green Forest Mother; Great One of the Stars, Goddess of the Wells

Gods – Father Sun/Sky, Oak King, Holly King, Arthur, Gods at peak power and strength.

Essence – humility, fire, partnership, nourishment, relationships, fertilization, nurturing

Dynamics/Meaning – crowning of the Sun God, death of the Oak King, assumption of the Holly King, end the ordeal of the Green Man

Purpose – rededication to the Lord and Lady, beginning of the harvest, honoring the Sun God, honoring the pregnant Goddess

Rituals/Magick – nature spirit/fey communion, planet healing, divination, love & protection magick. The battle between Oak King, God of the waxing year & Holly King, God of the waning year (can be a ritual play), or act out scenes from the Bard's (an incarnation of Merlin) "A Midsummer Night's Dream," rededication of faith, rites of inspiration

Customs – bonfires, processions, all night vigil, singing, feasting, celebrating with others, cutting divining rods, dowsing rods & wands, herb gathering, handfastings, weddings, Druidic gathering of mistletoe in oak groves, needfires, leaping between two fires, mistletoe (without berries, use as a protection amulet), women walking naked through gardens to ensure continued fertility, enjoying the seasonal fruits & vegetables, honor the Mother's fullness, richness and abundance, put garlands of St. John's Wort placed over doors/ windows & a sprig in the car for protection

Foods – honey, fresh vegetables, lemons, oranges, summer fruits, summer squash, pumpernickel bread, ale, carrot drinks, mead

Herbs – anise, mugwort, chamomile, rose, wild rose, oak blossoms, lily, cinquefoil, lavender, fennel, elder, mistletoe, hemp, thyme, larkspur, nettle, wisteria, vervain (verbena), St. John's Wort, heartsease, rue, fern, wormwood, pine, heather, yarrow, oak & holly trees

Element/Gender – fire/male

Threshold – evening/dawn

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

New Items at The Witch's Apothecary

Coexist T-Shirts – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/coexist-tshirt.html>

Nag Champa Oil – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/nag-champa-oil.html>

Red Jasper Pendulum – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/red-jasper-drop-pendulum.html>

Upper Arm Band Bracelet – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/upper-arm-bracelet.html>

Silver's Spells for Love Book – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/silver39s-spells-for-lo39.html>

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

The Witch's Apothecary June Sale Items

Magickal Herb Kit – 13 Herbs – Regular Price \$7.99, Sale Price \$6.99

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

Litha Sabbat Incense Blend – Regular Price \$2.99, Sale Price \$1.99

Wicca Starter Kit w/Love Spell – Regular Price \$26.99, Sale Price \$24.99

Money Spell Kit – Regular Price - \$9.99, Sale Price \$7.99

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

Herb of the Month

Sandalwood ~ Element – Air, Planet – Moon, Gender – Feminine, Parts Used – Wood & Resin, Magickal Properties – Protection, Cleansing, Meditations and Healings, Uses – Burn to enhance your meditations and healing wishes, use the wood also for a healing wand or tie a piece on a healing wand, burn to cleanse and purify yourself or the home by passing the smoke over your body or through the house, use with other herbs in developing your spirituality

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

Stone of the Month

Garnet – A stone of vital power and energy, it lends vitality and strength. It aids in raising and directing the flow of kundalini energy and increases sensuality. It is associated with the root chakra. Given as a gift, garnet symbolizes true and never-ending love and devotion. Garnet invokes and releases one's creative ability and inner fire.

Rune of the Month

┆ **Laguz** (L: Water, or a leek.) – Flow, water, sea, a fertility source, the healing power of renewal. Life energy and organic growth. Imagination and psychic matters. Dreams, fantasies, mysteries, the unknown, the hidden, the deep, the underworld. Success in travel or acquisition, but with the possibility of loss. Laguz Reversed or Merkstave: An indication of a period of confusion in your life. You may be making wrong decisions and poor judgments. Lack of creativity and feelings of being in a rut. Fear, circular motion, avoidance, withering. Madness, obsession, despair, perversity, sickness, suicide.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/rune-dice-divination.html

Tarot Card of the Month

The Magician/Magus – The Magician is a person of new opportunities and ambition. He has incredible willpower, but is often overcome by his emotions. This card is positively associated with confidence, individuality, willpower, new beginnings, and inner potential. It is negatively associated with trickery, deception, lack of compassion, indecision, and abuse of power.

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

Correspondence of the Month

Flowers

Rose Acacia – friendship
Amaryllis – beautiful but timid
Blue Bell – constancy
Buttercup – riches; memories of childhood
Camellia – gratitude; perfect loveliness
Carnation – pure and deep love
White Clover – I promise
Four Leaf Clover – be mine
Red Columbine – anxious and trembling
Dahlia – dignity and elegance
Daffodil – unrequited love
Garden Daisy – I share your feelings
Single Field Daisy – I will think of it
Dandelion – oracle; coquetry
Foxglove – insincerity; occupation
Rose Geranium – I prefer you
Honeysuckle – devoted love; fidelity
Hyacinth – constancy; benevolence
White Jasmine – amiability

Jonquil – desire; affection returned
Lavender – mistrust
Purple Lilac – first emotions of love
White Lily – majesty; purity
Lily of the Valley – return of happiness
Lupine – dejection
Magnolia – love of nature
Marigold – sacred affection
Garden Marigold – grief; chagrin
Mignonette – your qualities surpass your charms
Morning Glory – coquetry; affection
Myrtle – love in absence
Purple Pansy – you occupy my thoughts
Periwinkle – sweet memories
Phlox – our hearts are united
Pimpernel – rendezvous; change
Primrose – modest worth; silent love
Rhododendron – agitation
Rosebud – confession on love
Red Rose – I love you
White Rose – silence
Yellow Rose – infidelity, unfaithfulness
Snapdragon – presumption
Snowball – goodness; thoughts of heaven
Snowdrop – consolation; a friend in adversity
Sunflower – false riches
Sweet Pea – a meeting
Red Tulip – declaration of love
Blue Violet – faithfulness
White Violet – purity; candor; modesty
Zinnia – I mourn your absence

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

Spell of the Month

Gaia Healing Spell

Perform this spell during an eclipse or a waxing moon phase. Arrange sea shells on a secluded beach, in the shape of a circle. If you do not have access to a beach, perform this ritual in a garden or forest using stones, branches or flowers to form the circle.

Kneel at the center facing the ocean. Light a blue candle and an incense of your choice. Raise arms high and recite:

*With smoke and flame this spell's begun.
O Goddess of the stars, moon, and the sun,
Let the healing power begin.
Let the Earth be whole again.*

*The Earth is my mother and I am her child.
The earth is my lover, free and wild.
Heal on the outside, heal within.
Land and sea, fire and wind.*

*With love sincere,
I chant this prayer to make mankind
Begin to care.
Let every sister and every brother
Heal the wounds of the Great Earth Mother.*

*Let the healing power begin,
Let the Earth be whole again.
Heal on the outside, heal within.
Land and sea, fire and wind.
So mote it be!*

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