



May Newsletter

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Important May Dates

(All times are CST)

May 1 - Beltane

Beltane

Animals/Mythical Creatures - the white cow, goats, giants, rabbits, honey bees, faeries, satyrs, pegasus

Gemstones - emerald, orange carnelian, sapphire, rose quartz, lazuli, sapphire, yellow agate, bloodstone

Incense/Oil - passion flower, frankincense, tuberose, vanilla, lilac, rose

Colors/Candles - red & white (symbolizing God and Goddess), dark green, dark yellow, rainbow spectrum, blue, pastels, all colors

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - maypole & ribbons, flower crowns, fires, bowers, fields, May baskets, white flowers and ribbons, daisy chain, flower chaplet, white wine in clear crystal glass, chalice, butter churn, blackthorn & hawthorn branches, seasonal fruit

Goddesses - May Queen, Flora, Maia, Flower Goddesses, Lady of the Greenwood, Divine Couples, and Goddesses of the Hunt, Aphrodite(Greek) Blodewedd (Welsh), Erzulie (Voodun), Baubo (Greek)Rhea (Cretean), Prithvi (Hindu)

Gods - May King, Jack in the Green, Horned God (European), Herne (Greek), Green Man, Bel (Celtic), Baal (Phoenician), Gods of the Hunt,

Essence - compassion, youthful play, exuberance, sensuality, pleasure, action

Dynamics/Meaning - sacred marriage of the Lord and the Lady, arrival of the Tuatha de Dannan in Ireland

Purpose - fertility festival, celebrate 1st day of Celtic summer, 1st day of the light half of the year

Rituals/Magick - The Great Rite, love, romance & fertility magick, elf & faery power, offerings to elementals, crop blessings, relighting sacred fires, divination, building shrines, fire-calling, honoring house guardians, snake dancing, bathing faces in the morning dew of May to retain their youthful beauty

Customs - maypole erection, dancing around the maypole, bonfires, jumping fire, mating, picking flowers, making flower baskets, frolicking throughout the countryside, archery tournaments, sword dances, feasting, drinking and music, moving the herds to high pasture

Foods - dairy, honey, oats, red fruits, herbal salads, red/pink wine punch, large round oatmeal/barley cakes, sweets

Herbs - almond, angelica, damiana, hawthorn, hibiscus, saffron, ash tree, bluebells, cinquefoil, daisy, frankincense, hawthorn, ivy, lilac, marsh marigold, meadowsweet, primrose, roses, woodruff, yellow cowslip, yarrow

Element/Gender - air/male

Threshold - dawn

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

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo

Mexico's Independence Day

Cinco de Mayo, the Fifth of May, celebrates the rejection of the last attempt of Europeans to rule the Mexican nation. On this day in 1862, forces loyal to President Benito Juarez, an Indian, defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla. The victorious commander, Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza, was born at Goliad in southeast Texas in 1829.

May 9 - Mother's Day

Spiritual Origin of Mothers Day

The majority of countries that celebrate Mother's Day do so on the second Sunday of May. On this day, it is common for Mothers to be lavished with presents and special attention from their families, friends and loved ones. But it hasn't always been this way.

Only recently dubbed "Mother's Day," the highly traditional practice of honoring of Motherhood is rooted in antiquity, and past rites typically had strong symbolic and spiritual overtones; societies tended to celebrate Goddesses and symbols rather than actual Mothers. In fact, the personal, human touch to Mother's Day is a relatively new phenomenon. The maternal objects of adoration ranged from mythological female deities to the Christian Church itself. Only in the past few centuries did celebrations of Motherhood develop a decidedly human focus.

April 17, 11:06 pm until May 11, 5:27 pm - Mercury Retrograde

Mercury Retrograde in Taurus

On Saturday, April 17th, 2010, Mercury the wise communicator—and universal trickster—turns retrograde at 12°37' Taurus, in the sign of the Bull, 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 May 11, 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 May 28, 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. It's a bit like traveling on the road watching another car beside you: when the other car slows down, or you speed up, it looks as though the other car is moving backwards. 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, Mercury is not always in the same sign as the Sun. Mercury turns retrograde this time in Taurus while the Sun is in Aries, but the Sun moves into Taurus on Apr. 20 (with Mercury still in Taurus); however, the Sun enters Gemini on May 21, whilst Mercury, having turned direct, is still gathering speed in Taurus and does not reach his home in Gemini until June 10.

Fated Events

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, 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.

Mercury Shadow Phases

Many astrologers consider that the "Mercury Shadow" begins between two and three weeks before the actual retro station; so the "shadow phase" begins on April 4, when Mercury passes the point of direct station for the first time in this cycle. This view has some justification, but 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.

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 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

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. For example, I have heard of some who excel in the way they play roulette under a retrograde Mercury! 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 Taurus Taurus, the Bull

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 Taurus, people with this sign prominent in their charts will be especially prone to such introspection. Taurus is a Fixed Sign, so the other Fixed Signs, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius will also receive a touch of the lash!

Mercury turns retro on April 17 at 12°37' Taurus, amidst a welter of planetary aspects, the most notable being the stressful square to Mars, which is certainly aggravating and has been since April 4. This aspect will be particularly strong on the 25th and 26th of April, when trying to get things done is frustrating. Incorrect information or directions may cause you to be too early, or too late. The wretched car may break down, or transportation delays trash your travel schedule. Buying a car or other equipment may be beset by snags. Others may say things, or use methods that provoke you. Avoid rash behavior; make sure you understand any information you receive. No matter what the headaches, you still make measurable progress. You are likely to be more competitive or aggressive, which can help you accomplish more. Protect yourself against airborne colds and fever and take extra precautions when handling electrical equipment and volatile materials.

One aspect on this day tending to moderate the difficulties is a nice sextile between the two benefics, Venus and Jupiter. Venus is in her own sign, Taurus, which is generally favorable, especially as Mercury is there too, and Jupiter is in his own sign, Pisces, so the benefits of the aspect are strengthened. It brings social opportunities, especially in the arts, theatre and publishing. It might bring some good luck, but the impending square from the Moon to Jupiter later in the day suggests that the good fortune it brings may be rather overstated, seeming better than it really is. Still, if you are careful and act quickly, you might strike it lucky. It should be pointed out that

Venus rules Mercury during this phase, so matters connected with fashion, money, greed, feasting, love, sex and sensuality will be the flavor of the month. This said, and notwithstanding the nice aspect to Jupiter, Venus is conjunct the decidedly malefic fixed star, Caput Algol, the Gorgon's Head. The conjunction reaches full force on April 22, so expect a wild time. This unfortunate star is a pulsing binary, known for its passionate, intense and even hysterical tendencies. Always a signal that there's something deeper at work. Female sexuality runs rampant and it is also associated with extreme creativity, an expression of the Dark Side.

However, as Venus is applying to the auspicious trine aspect to Saturn (which has just retrograded back across the border into Virgo) it marks a good time to work towards long-term success, and to form substantial, long-lasting relationships based on mutual commitment and respect. The power of womankind, thanks to Algol, is magnified and yet stabilized. This aspect is at its peak on the 24th and 25th of April, so it is surrounded by quite a bit of noise and martial clamor, thanks to the Mercury/Mars square the same weekend. This reinforces the need to tread warily and be sure to pay attention to the details.

Since we are talking of Saturn, the Grim Reaper, we need to pay attention to the opposition between Saturn and Jupiter, which is stimulated during this phase and magnified by Saturn's unfortunate opposition to Uranus. Jupiter is applying to the conjunction with Uranus in Pisces, which is active during this phase, but actually hits harder during the latter half of the year (see my article on Jupiter's Transit through Pisces). Jupiter and Saturn are known to astrologers as the Great Chronocrators, or Time Lords, and their interaction marks big changes in society and in personal lives. The presence of Uranus suggests that even greater societal developments will be stimulated by this opposition, with unfortunate legislation and the collapse of structures, as indeed we have seen in recent times. These will come forward again with a vengeance as Saturn makes his final pass through Virgo over the coming months. Responsibilities, restrictions, rules and regulations will be in direct conflict with freedom, and this situation is apt to be a key factor in blocking your progress, happiness, success, or whatever else you are after, especially if you were born in the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 or in 1978, 1979, or 1980. Resist the promise of something new and hang on to what you have, at least for the time being. It is important to realize that you will probably not be able to remove the forces that oppose you, which only leaves the option of finding a constructive way to work around them, or with them.

Mercury turns retrograde conjunct the Fixed Star Achird, a binary star, orange and violet, in the girdle of Cassiopeia, the Ethiopian Queen, the mother of Andromeda. She is said to have boasted that not only Andromeda but she herself was fairer than the Nereids, and for that reason she was bound to her chair and condemned to circle the pole head downwards as a lesson in humility. According to Ptolemy, this constellation is of the nature of Saturn and Venus. It is said to give haughtiness, boastfulness and exaggerated pride, but at the same time the power of commanding respect. It is associated by the Kabalists with the Hebrew letter Beth and the 2nd Tarot Trump, The High Priestess.

Mercury retro in Taurus, a Venus-ruled sign, is sometimes indicative of stuttering, hoarseness and other vocal disorders, as you would expect. However, symptoms of deafness; asthma and bronchitis; foot pains; arrhythmia; muscle tics and tremors can also arise. Taurus is practical and determined, pleasant, fond of the opposite sex, music, art and all intellectual and refined amusements, and Mercury here does not usually jump to conclusions or easily accept new ideas. The mind is slow to reason, but once a conclusion is reached, does not easily change; hence the retro phase can see stubborn errors with long-term consequences. Stick to practical applications, as flights of imagination are not well-favored.

The obstinacy and stubbornness of the Bull are marked characteristics of this phase, and apply particularly to communication, travel, sales, academia and all mental pursuits. A strong desire for money, possessions and a fixed income may divert our attention from what is really happening. This position can indicate hoarseness and laryngitis from nervousness and talking for too long. Drink adequate amounts of water to offset hoarseness and proneness to asthma and bronchitis. Apple juice, buckwheat, oats and wheatgrass juice may offset the negatives somewhat (no, not necessarily all mixed together!).

Mercury turns direct at 2° Taurus 41' on May 11th, conjunct the Fixed Star Sharatan, a violent star in the Ram's Horn. This star stimulates aggressive behavior, yet was known by the ancient Persians as a protector—but probably the kind of protection we could do without (example: Blackwater, the massive private army still under other names providing "security" in Iraq).

Other fixed stars in Taurus are activated too, by the Mercury and Venus passage through Taurus and by the square from Mars. These are likely to see escalation in military conflict, especially by the West against Muslim forces—and probably not to the benefit of the Muslims. Let us hope that the fixed ideas threatened by Mercury retro in Taurus do not become so entrenched that they extend the conflicts and generate more useless loss of life.

All areas of communication are affected by this phase, especially in matters connected with security, structured thinking, the exposition of traditional ideas and conservative methods; women's rights and obligations and their role in society; sensual delights, displays of wealth, sexual pleasures and communications connected with such matters. 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.

May 13, 8:04 pm - New Moon

New Moon in Taurus

As the Moon in Aries wanes and moves steadily toward renewal by joining again with the Sun, now in Taurus, there is a corresponding shift in the focus of energy on earth away from the initiations, new beginnings, pioneering efforts, "planting seeds" that dominated last month's experiences. Taurus energy is the next step in the year-long creative process of growth and evolution. It's the next increment of development after the exuberant declaration of existence.

Now that something new exists, it needs support and the resources to nourish, strengthen, fortify itself ... and survive. With the arrival of Taurus energy -- in the sky with the New Moon's metaphor, and on earth in the practical affairs of everyday life -- you take a look at your new ideas, directions, options, opportunities, desires, and circumstances and decide how best to help them thrive.

The application of available energy moves from the inspirational to the practical. Taurus energy is concerned with growth, development, solidifying, stabilizing, increasing, sustaining, and becoming secure in the material world. The New Moon in Taurus marks a time when things are becoming real, beginning to take shape in the material world, moving into substantial, tangible form, and finding the resources that will establish them solidly in physical reality.

Taurus energy is stable, unflappable, practical, dependable, patient, nurturing, concerned with concrete physical goals and with solidifying those things which are taking root in the material world. It is steady, determined, purposeful, resistant to change (as in, stubborn), possessive, loyal, and gentle. Properly expressed, it operates to provide a safe, serene environment in which new life and newly created efforts can prosper and flourish.

Whatever your sign and wherever Taurus is placed in your Natal Chart, this moment of renewed alignment between your sense of personal direction and your sense of emotional commitment marks the place where stability is important to you. Here is where you want things to be predictable, harmonious, and pleasant -- and where resources, both financial and in terms of personal relationships, are applied and exchanged.

The energy of each new sign offers a reaction against the excesses of the sign that precedes it -- in that wonderful yin-yang system of checks and balances we will all come to know intimately as we progress through

life. Where Aries energy is pushy, assertive, impatient, and a little rough around the edges, Taurus is laid-back, composed, affectionate, gentle, devoted, loyal, gentle, and "nice."

Its emphasis is on durability, being grounded, getting results, planning for the future, and making investments that are intended to grow steadily and pay off well in time. It takes undisguised delight in seeing new life prosper and mature.

It not only values, it needs peaceful, serene, aesthetically pleasing surroundings. It revels in its indulgence of all the physical sensations. And anyone who thinks Taurus can be pushed anywhere it doesn't want to go, or any faster than it wants to travel, hasn't ever tried that theory out on an actual member of the tribe.

Taurus is Fixed Earth energy. Fixed ... as in "set in its ways." Earth ... as in "able to dig in its heels and ground itself like the roots of a mighty oak." Its reputation for needing to do what it does, what it wants, in its own way is legendary. You might think twice (or three or four or five times) before deliberately running afoul of its formidable brand of determination.

The love of achieving efficient, sensible progress through sound planning and a willing pair of hands that comes to its forte in the work ethic of Virgo and the need for lasting legacies in the material world that mark the ambitions of Capricorn begin here in the nurturing care, financial savvy, visionary schemes, deliberateness, and concern for establishing the next generation that is the heartfelt center of the Taurus soul.

Taurus ambitions revolve around ownership and possession. The basic statement of this energy is, "I have." (And nobody better try to take "it" from him!!) What it lacks in the flash and drama of the Fire signs, Taurus more than makes up for through persistent effort, doggedness, and sheer staying power. What it builds is built to last.

On its softer side, however, is this intention: What it builds, it also means to enjoy. Thus the connection not only to physical creation but to physical sensation is another hallmark of Taurus energy. If it plants the rosebush, waters the ground, fertilizes and aerates, prunes the canes, sprays for aphids, and watches the buds form and swell ... then, by Heaven, it's also going smell those roses when they bloom -- as much and as long as it wants.

For Taurus, physical life and the physical world are things to savor, from fine food to beautiful art to wonderful sex to the more opulent trappings of a truly luxurious lifestyle. Living the good life is what life itself means to Taurus. Period.

Since this kind of indulgence usually takes money ... Taurus is intent on making money. Since this kind of aesthetic sensitivity requires raw materials, artistic talent, and creative effort ... Taurus will support that, too, with everything from offering its own designs, ideas, and efforts to generously patronizing the work of others. (The original art hanging on the walls doesn't always have to bear the signature of the Taurus owner. Van Gogh's autograph will do just fine.)

If a tree falls in the forest with no ear around to hear the crash ... ok, it may not make a sound. (Taurus is not one bit interested in such abstract, hypothetical notions!!) But if beauty exists with no one to behold it ... it may be a total waste. And if there is one thing Taurus cannot abide, it's waste. So whenever possible, it takes no chances. It tastes. It admires. It sniffs and samples. It listens. It touches. It savors ... and it feels.

If you want to label it self-indulgent and hedonistic, well ... go right ahead. "Sticks and stones" and all that!! Besides it will take more than sticks and stones to faze a Taurus. He or she will more than likely fashion the pieces into an interesting collage, slap a frame around the edges, and call it a masterpiece. Or take those missiles flung its direction in derision and add them to the rock garden in the backyard. That saying about making

lemonade when life gives you lemons ... probably came from a Taurus with a sweet tooth and a yen to go sit in the shade for a while. (Another favorite Taurus occupation.)

Taurus energy mellows out the fuss and ferocity of its Fire sign predecessor ... and works to make the world a nice place, at least in the corner it has to occupy. (The only possible time Taurus might have an interest in warfare is in defense of its possessions ... or if somehow there is a profit to be made from the fracas. Way back behind the lines, however, where there's no dust and things are relatively safe. Otherwise it is emphatically a lover, not a fighter. And it takes considerable prodding to rouse it to belligerent response.)

Its interest is in production, consolidation, fortification, and permanence. Conflict, especially for the sake of conquest, or worse, for the howling excitement of strife ... is a colossal waste of time and effort where Taurus is concerned. And I already mentioned how it feels about waste ... of anything.

Taurus plants, tends, invests, encourages, builds, arranges, assembles, plans, finances, supports ... steps back from time to time to appreciate and relish its own work. And then it holds on to what it has, be it money, property, possessions, or people.

It's also well-known for being territorial and overbearing in its relationships -- extending its sense of ownership to include the important people in its life, whether that sets well with the other person or not. Along with being stubborn, Taurus is known for jealousy. Both qualities are among those on the darker side of this otherwise placid, kind, and sociable spirit.

However, the positive / negative polarities of expression exist specifically in Taurus energy, as they do in everything. It's just that Taurus may not let them show as quickly as do some of the other signs, but once out in the open, they can be just as stubbornly emphatic as everything else in the Taurus character.

When this kind of energy is not well-integrated into a personal chart, or when it conflicts with more preferred strategies, it results in action that is materialistic, extravagant, lazy, self-indulgent, envious, demanding, possessive, manipulative, greedy, and wasteful. Much as that is anathema to a positively expressing Taurus energy, it is wantonly obvious when the energy goes awry.

Unbalanced Taurus energy is not only financially disastrous, it causes deep and lasting problems in the relationships it touches. It can be coarse and crude beyond description in its dealings with people. It can be strangely demanding of others ... while simultaneously ignoring, abusing, imposing on, and taking advantage of them. And more than any other sign, Taurus can and will use money as a weapon when it's energy goes off the scale and out of control. Wonderful as Taurus energy can be, the downside is not a pretty picture.

With the arrival of the New Moon in Taurus, the theme of life's creative cycle -- and the focus of people in general -- becomes more sensual, more considerate of emotions and feelings, more compassionate, helpful, tolerant, and solicitous. That admirable Taurus readiness to help shoulder a burden and tote another's load wedges its way into human interaction. A touch of charm and empathy enhances relationships. Peace and harmony have a chance to assume priority in people's lives. After the intense and competitive push of Aries energy for the last few weeks ... this can be an indescribable relief.

This energy is very attentive, dependable, kind-hearted, considerate, long-suffering, and accommodating. There is extra emphasis on being cautious, firm, authentic, and resolute. It is a good time to protect the status quo, to take stock of your resources and possessions, to examine your abstract values, and to focus on "how you take care of yourself" -- physically, financially and emotionally. It is also a good time to relax a little, enjoy life, carry through with established plans, and indulge yourself in sensory pleasures.

During times of stress with this energy in effect, people (and the ways they express their emotions) are overly sensitive, sluggish, wasteful, resentful, suspicious, rigid, and greedy.

On an individual level, you may find you are unusually concerned with your financial life and with your personal relationships. You may want the pace of life to smooth out and simmer down a bit -- so that you can enjoy some of its finer and more sensually appealing pleasures.

Upset and surprises may be especially unwelcome ... even if you normally handle them well or even find the challenge appealing. You want predictability in your life for a while. You want to be able to plan on what tomorrow will bring ... and not have to adjust to new situations. You may feel you've had enough novelty in your life for a while. The fireworks of Aries can leave you wanting a little time to breathe deep and recover now.

With any luck, others around you will feel the same ... so you won't get any arguments about taking some downtime to put your feet up and enjoy a little music and maybe a glass of good wine while you watch the sunset. The energy now is sure conducive to that. You might also take a moment, look around and see what you can do to make your immediate surroundings -- that setting in which you watch the sky turn colors as the sun sinks under the horizon -- more comfortable, more attractive, more ... well ... luxurious.

Does that easy chair need new upholstery? Could the walls of the room use a different shade of paint? How about some new art to give a little zing to the indoor scenery? Or if you're really feeling ambitious ... and prosperous ... try a new recipe, a new restaurant, or a couple of really elegant additions to your wardrobe. Splurge a little on a gift for your significant other ... and then step back and watch those returns on your investment turn into sweet personal "dividends."

May 27, 6:07 pm - Full Moon

Flower Moon

In Cherokee tradition, May is the Planting Moon. In most temperate climates, the soil is warm enough for tender seedlings and seeds to prosper in the gentle sun and rain. The Choctaw call this the Panther Moon for the big cats native to the land. To the Dakota Sioux, this is the Moon When Leaves Are Green. Grass grows vigorously on the prairies; in the forests and along riverbanks, trees unfurl their leaves.

Plants and animals put out a burst of energy in the mild weather between winter's cold and summer's heat. This is a peak gardening month for many. The earliest crops that grow in late winter or early spring - such as asparagus - deliver the season's first edibles. Many plants that yield summer crops have set their fruit. People also focus on exuberant outdoor pursuits. Picnics, parades, sports and outdoor activities foster family and community bonds.

Magickally, use this time to foster growth and expansion. Work hard and play hard. Store some of that energy in magickal artifacts. Gardeners bless their crops and cast spells to repel hungry pests. Fill rituals with lively activities such as dancing, singing and acting out myths in sacred theater.

~ Elizabeth Barrette in [*Llewellyn's 2010 Witches' Datebook*](#)

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Herb of the Month

Lemon Verbena - Air/Venus, Gender - Feminine, Parts Used - The whole herb, Magickal Properties - Dream Protection, Love, Uses - Wear a sprig or a piece of it to protect you from dreaming, carry the leaves or an amulet of the herb to attract the opposite sex, also added to other wishes to enhance the power.

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

Black Tourmaline - Long thin crystals of Black Tourmaline are common as inclusions in Quartz, forming the ornamental stone called "Tourmalinated Quartz". This stone is unique with its long needle to straw sized, arrow straight, prismatic crystals of pitch black Schorl criss-crossing the clear colorless Quartz. Alone, Black Tourmaline has long been used by shaman in African, Native American and Aboriginal tribes. Native Americans used it as a protective stone against negative spells...but when found included in Quartz, it not only breaks the spell, but has been known to energize the "victim" and actually enhance well-being! Used with Mica, Black Tourmaline is said to be able to return the "spell" or negative energy from whence it came, along with providing a view of the sender of such negativity. Working like a lightning conductor, Black Tourmaline dispels the negativity and protects against harmful energies such as anger, envy, and greed.

Recognized as the "Teller" stone, all Tourmalines provide insight during times of difficulty or struggle and can aid in "telling" who or what is causing the problem. Black Tourmaline is well-known and most valued for its grounding effects, as are Obsidian, Hematite, Bloodstone and Smoky Quartz. However, for grounding of spiritual energies Black Tourmaline is the first stone of choice; a gift of nature which enables its human companion to route and receive higher energies from the Crown Chakra down into the Root Chakra. It is goof for grounding, protection, purification rituals, deflects and repels negative energy, increases physical vitality, relieves stress, clears confusion, brings clarity, and provides a sense of purpose.

It also gives physical aid in treating: Dyslexia. Disorientation. Arthritis. Stress. Strengthens immune system. Stimulates and helps balance adrenal glands. Helps protect against radiation.

Rune of the Month

𐌆 Dagaz (D: Day or dawn.) - Breakthrough, awakening, awareness. Daylight clarity as opposed to nighttime uncertainty. A time to plan or embark upon an enterprise. The power of change directed by your own will, transformation. Hope/happiness, the ideal. Security and certainty. Growth and release. Balance point, the place where opposites meet. Dagaz Merkstave (Dagaz cannot be reversed, but may lie in opposition): A completion, ending, limit, coming full circle. Blindness, hopelessness.

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

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

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, physic 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

For Power from Within

Chant the following:

"We are an old people,
We are a new people.
We are the same people,
Stronger than before.
I am a strong woman,
I am a healer,
and my soul will never die."

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