



November Newsletter

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Important November Dates

(All times are CST)

November 9, 5:03 pm – New Moon

In early societies, the reappearance of the moon was often a cause for celebration – after all, it meant that the dark had passed, and the full moon was on its way back. The *Carmina Gadelica* offers some beautiful prayers for the night of the New Moon. They're Christian in the original context, but can be adapted nicely for a Pagan ceremony. The following rite is one which welcomes the moon back at the beginning of her cycle. If you're raising children in a Pagan or Wiccan tradition, this can be a lot of fun. It's also a simple ritual that can be performed by a solitary practitioner.

What You Need:

A moon candle
A mirror
Blessing Oil

First, if your tradition requires you to cast a circle, do so at this time. If you don't normally cast a circle, take the time to ritually purify the area by smudging or asperging. This will establish the space as sacred. Perform this ceremony outside if at all possible – it's the best way to get a good look at the sliver of new moon. You'll need a moon candle, wrapped in a black cloth, to place on your altar. This is traditionally a white unscented pillar-style candle. You'll also need a hand-held mirror. Tie some silver and white ribbons on it if you wish. Finally, have a small bowl of Blessing Oil handy.

Hold this ceremony at sunset if you can. Turn to the west, and watch as the sun goes down (without looking directly at it). Once the sun has dropped below the horizon, you'll be able to see where the new moon is rising. If the sun set before you began, you'll need to look a bit higher in the sky, but you should still be able to find it as long as the night is a clear one. If you're doing this rite with children, have them each try to be the first one to spot the new moon.

Once you see the moon in the sky, unwrap the candle. Hold it up high and say:

*Welcome back, Moon!
We're glad to see you again.
Another cycle has passed
another month gone by
and our lives have moved forward.*

Place the candle on the altar and light it, still facing the moon. Say:

*Today is a new day,
and a new month begins.
As the tides flow, and the moon rises above,
we are thankful that She has returned.
She watches over us, ever constant,
yet always changing,
and we are thankful for her light.*

If you have children present, have them wave to the moon and thank her for returning – you'd be amazed how silly and fun this simple task can become! Next, turn to face east, where the sun will rise in the morning. Pick up the mirror and hold it so you can see the new moon behind you. Say:

*Bring us your wisdom, your guidance,
your protection, in the coming month.
You are behind me at every step,
watching and guiding me,
and I am thankful.*

Place the mirror back on the altar, beside the moon candle. Take a moment to reflect on your goals. After all, this is a time of new beginnings, and a good time for new commitments and vows. Warm the Blessing Oil over the candle for just a moment, and then anoint each others' foreheads. As you do so, say:

May the blessings of the moon be with you.

If you are working alone, anoint your own forehead, and grant yourself the blessings of the moon.

When you are ready, close the circle and end the ritual. If you choose, you can move into healing rites or magical workings, or a Cakes & Ale ceremony.

Tips:

If you're doing this rite as a family, the eldest female present should light the moon candle. Decorate your altar with silvers and whites to celebrate the return of the moon.

November 16 – Night of Hecate

HECATE RITUAL

You will need a black or other suitable candle, incense, a chalice, wine or cup of juice, a small disk of salt, pencil and parchment paper. You will want a small table or stand for an altar, if you do not already have an altar, with a chair or pillows for sitting. Decorations of black cats, owls, wolves, ravens, cauldrons and black stones if you have them would also be nice.

RITUAL

*Dark Mother, Hecate,
Guardian of the Akashic Records,
Keeper of the Great Cauldron of life,
I call upon You to be here with me now.
I need your guidance, as I strive for spiritual knowledge and growth.
Help me also with (state your magickal purpose).
I wish with all my heart to accomplish these desires in a positive way.
If these are not to be my good, reveal to me the direction to take and the goals to which I
should aspire.
I await your guidance and directions.*

Now sit quietly for a few moments concentrating upon your wishes. Lay out the Tarot cards, cast the runes, or do another form of divination. When you are finished with the silent meditation, fold the paper, light it from the candle and drop it into the metal bowl to burn. Then send the ashes off to the directions of the air. Then say:

*I give my desire and dreams into your keeping. Great Hecate.
by Air, I create the seed.
by Fire, I warm it,
by water, I nourish it,
and by earth, I cause it to grow.
From Spirit, I draw the power to make all things possible.
Join me in celebration of the power of the Goddess.*

Hold up the chalice and say a blessing then drink from it and pour into the libation bowl as an offering:

*All Life is your own
All fruits of the Earth
All fruits of your womb, Great Mother
Your union, your dance
Goddess Hecate
I thank you for your blessings and abundance
Join with me, feast with me, enjoy with me.
Blessed Be.
Thank you Dark Mother, Hecate.*

Dismiss the quarters, extinguish the candle, dispose of the ashes.

November 24, 8:30 am – Full Moon

The November Full Moon is known as the Mourning Moon.

Mourning Moon

November is a transitional time as autumn fades and it becomes more winter-like every day. The skies may be brilliantly blue, but most leaves have fallen from the trees. In the morning, you may find that Jack Frost has been hard at work decorating windows, adorning autumn leaves and coating blades of grass with his silvery-white frosting. Jack Frost, an elfish character connected to Norse folklore, was believed to have brought the brilliant fall colors by nipping leaves with his frost. In Russia, he is known as the benevolent Papa Frost – a Santa type cloaked in shimmering white and silvery blue – who was thought to bind water and the earth together during the year's coldest days. Welcome the spirit of Papa Frost or Old Jack Frost into your magick and put the freeze on a troubling situation. Tonight, as the Full Moon rises, write your problem on a slip of paper, tuck it in a paper cup, fill the cup with water and place in the freezer. Then repeat this chant:

*Old Jack Frost put the freeze on this problem for me,
Bring harm to none, and as I will, so mote it be.*

- Ellen Dugan

New Items at The Witch's Apothecary

Two Sided Pendulum Chart – www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/pendulum-chart.html

Herbal Teas – www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/herbal-teas.html

Shiva Stone Pendulum – www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/shiva-pendulum.html

Magick Potions eBook – www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/magick-potions-ebook.html

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

The Witch's Apothecary November Sale Items

Red Crush Velvet Hooded Cloak – Regular Price \$54.99, Sale Price \$49.99

Tarot Card Reading eBook – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

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

Rune Oracle Cards – Regular Price \$12.99, Sale Price \$10.99

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

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

Astrology
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In 1997, my planets Mercury (communication) and Venus (love) converged in the 5th house of my natal chart (creativity) conjoined by Neptune (inspiration), setting the stage for the creation of the AstroStarKards. All of the tools were at hand to begin my endeavor. I had been teaching and lecturing Astrology since 1974. Also, I was teaching at an adult education program of Ft Lauderdale and my classes were boring and dry. I decided that I needed a better way to teach and that maybe flash cards would be the answer. My original intent was to create flash cards that would facilitate the learning of astrology by memory and recognition.

After completing the writing, I decided to send the manuscript to my daughters for review and revision. Lauren did the research and Sheryl did the rewrite. Sheryl's husband worked on the graphics of the cards. The deck of 78 cards consisted of planets, houses, and signs which were color coordinated and background coordinated. The deck also had the major aspects and the nodes.

Lauren and Sheryl decided that the Astro Star Kards needed to be more than flashcards. They started playing with them and realized that they could do readings with them that were detailed and accurate. Lauren and Sheryl decided that an instruction booklet was needed to explain how to use the deck of cards. They wrote a 96 page book with complete explanation and examples of different layouts for readings for beginners as well as advanced students.

And so my friends, before I begin my monthly astrology column, I am offering you the Astro Star Kards with a 60 minute taped lesson (a \$75.00 value) for only \$35.00. This package would make great Christmas gifts (ages 8-80), when you are looking for something special for the inquiring mind. You may also purchase gift certificates for your favorite people allowing them to receive answers and counseling about careers, relationships, and wealth. If you have a question, the Astro Star Kards will have the answer. You may contact me through The Witch's Apothecary via email or a phone call and I will contact you either by phone or email. Keep your eyes posted for the next column where I will be discussing different topics in astrology.

Editor's Note: The Astro Star Kards/Taped Lesson package is available only through Arlene. Please contact her for more information. The Astro Star Kards themselves are available on the web site at <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/astro-star-kards.html>

Herb of the Month

Patchouli ~ Element – Earth, Planet – Sun, Gender - Masculine Parts Used - The whole Herb, Magickal Properties - Passionate Love, Fertility, Business Growth, Uses - Used primarily in attracting a powerful passionate love, burned for new business growth and also placed in the garden to help it grow healthy, worn in a sachet or an oil for fertility, also used with other Earth element herbs for divination and increasing psychic awareness

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

Calcite – Calcite increases and amplifies energy. This makes it an excellent stone for distance healing, as well as other types of healing. One of the energies it amplifies is learning abilities, and thus is a great stone for students.

Calcite is a protecting, grounding and centering stone, and can help bring inner peace. Since calcite also promotes creativity and imagination, this inner peace it can bring is a vibrant one.

Calcite has been said to increase prosperity. It can also be helpful in astral travel and in channeling, as well as increasing intuition. Calcite is also a stone of spirituality and wisdom.

All calcites are helpful in lessening of fear and reducing stress. Calcite is probably the premier cleanser of stored negative energies in the human system, and works on all levels from the physical to the etheric. This makes it a very purifying stone. It can also be used to clear negativity in the environment, such as a room that it's in.

In the realm of relationships, calcite brings its properties of grounding and centering, to make it a stone of reconciliation. Calcite can ameliorate arguments in a relationship, and help maintain a practical balance between the people in the relationship.

Physically, calcites are good for back pain, increasing physical strength, teeth, eyes, and are generally good for healing. Clear calcite can be used for treating all conditions. It can also be used for detoxifying and as an antiseptic agent. Calcite is especially helpful with emotional and mental conditions.

Clear calcite can be used to open and balance all the chakras. Calcite of different colors is great for using to open and balance the various chakras.

Rune of the Month

◀ **Kenaz** (K: Beacon or torch.) – Vision, revelation, knowledge, creativity, inspiration, technical ability. Vital fire of life, harnessed power, fire of transformation and regeneration. Power to create your own reality, the power of light. Open to new strength, energy, and power now. Passion, sexual love. Kenaz Reversed or Merkstave: Disease, breakup, instability, lack of creativity. Nakedness, exposure, loss of illusion and false hope.

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

Temptation/The Devil – Temptation (AKA The Devil) is the embodiment of primal instincts. Heated emotions run strong with him, passions devour the mind and self-control is lost. Positively associated with permanence and commitment. Negatively associated with entrapment, lust, greed, ignorance, anger, tyranny, and obsession.

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-readin.html

Correspondence of the Month

Seasons

Effective spell casting takes advantage of the energy or personality characteristics of the many correspondences that relate to the timing of the spell. Although an experienced witch can cast a spell any time at any place, most choose the appropriate day and time whenever possible. Correctly timing a spell can add extra energy and focus that will help manifest desires more quickly. A good astrological almanac will provide most of the planetary information required to determine correspondences for a particular day and time. By keeping track of the magickal correspondences that are present when you do spell work, you will be able to learn which ones add energy to your spells. Many witches keep a record of the correspondences and the results of their spell work in their Books of Shadows. A commonly used correspondence for spell work is the Season of the year. The following is a list of the types of spells that are appropriate during each season.

Summer – love, marriage, friendship, beauty, courage, fire magick, strength, protection, magickal and physical energy

Spring – healing, air magick, ecological rituals, fertility, finances

Autumn – money, employment, water magick

Winter – Earth magick, introspection, meditation, magickal exercises, banishing, seeking past lives

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

Money Bottle Spell

a thin, tall bottle

5 pennies

5 dimes

5 quarters

5 kernels of dried corn

5 kernels of dried wheat (or 5 tsp. wheat flour)

5 sesame seeds

5 cinnamon sticks

5 cloves

5 whole allspice

5 pecans

Place each item into your thin, tall bottle (a spice bottle will do). Cap it tightly. Shake the bottle with your receptive hand for five minutes, while chanting:

*Herbs and silver,
Copper and grain;
Work to increase
My money gain.*

Place the money bottle on a table somewhere in your house. Leave your purse or wallet near the bottle when at home.

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