



September Newsletter

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Important September Dates

(All times are CST)

August 20, 2:59 pm through September 12, 6:09 pm - Mercury Retrograde

How will Mercury Retrograde will affect you? Read your astrological sign to find out.

Aries

Over work and taking on way too much can end up with you having to take a forced rest to recuperate. Play it safe and make sure there is a good doze of life balance present; otherwise long hours at the office as well as partying to dawn can take its toll. Don't get yourself all wound up worry about things that are probably not even within your control.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: When inspiration strikes, make sure you are ready to record your thoughts. Be careful of only looking at the large picture and overlooking details. Aries are known to make rash decisions and in a Mercury retrograde time, it can lead to making irreversible errors. It is best to keep your strong opinions to yourself during this time and do more listening than talking.

Taurus

Be careful of taking people for granted over this period. Just when you think you have life all worked out and have a strategy to get anyone to do just about anything, your plans can change in a moment. Don't gamble with life, this is a time to be sensible and serious as well as be upfront with the people who are close to you.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: As a Taurean, you're known to have a good level of common sense, but with Mercury retrograde present, this all of a sudden disappears. Prepare to double check your communications; it's possible to miss important data over this time. Also, your innate stubborn traits can take on a whole new dimension, be flexible.

Gemini

Anything to do with your family home, children or the domestic area of your life can come unstuck during this time. Don't assume anything; if you are unsure of someone's movements then take the time to get the facts. Make sure your house is locked and secure. This is a good time to have a spare set of keys with a neighbor or friend.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are able to solve complex problems where others are still trying to figure out first base, and as Mercury is your ruling planet, you in a better position than most. However, you can become distracted and go off on tangents, so there's a need to stay focused on what's important. Beware of being a know-it-all, and be prepared to learn from others.

Cancer

Keep your day-planner flexible, as plans can change in an instant. When there is chaos and confusion around you, there is no point digging your heels in and insisting that it's business as usual. You may as well go with the energy and go into manic management mode. If someone needs to take control, then you're the person to do it!

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: Over this period, Cancer's already compassionate nature is intensified. You have the ability to understand other people's position and help them gain a level of understanding. Be careful of expecting too much from people and becoming resentful when they don't meet your expectations.

Leo

Anything to do with finances, possessions or property is affected during this period. You can expect delays, and mix-ups, some small and some grand. You can do what you can to avoid disruption to your life by having your business matters under control, but then there are the things other people do that are out of your control and this is when all mayhem can break loose.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are a natural conversationalist and can be entertaining and humorous with an ability to be an inspiring public speaker. Be careful over this period not to be too dogmatic and insisting that others agree with your opinions. After all, you are known to be just a tad bossy, and this side can turn ugly if you're not careful.

Virgo

With Mercury retrograde in your sign for the whole out of phase period, don't be surprised if you feel just a little out of sorts and at times uncomfortable in your own skin. You will need to do everything you can to keep your energies balanced, and that means not working around the clock like a mad-persona and doing something nice for yourself every single day!

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: Being an analytical and organized person, you have an eye for details. You take pride in your work and can discuss just about any topic with just about anyone. Mercury is your ruling planet, so in many ways you are more in line with the energies than other people, but you can still feel like your world has been tipped upside down during this period and it's important not to assume anything.

Libra

Beware of being in too much of a hurry to check the facts and figures, particularly of anything that is written like an article, letter, email and particularly anything that pertains to an official type document. Even if you have to check the fine print three times, it will be worth the effort. Also be careful of passing on important jobs and errands to others who may not share your level of urgency or professionalism.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: As a Libran you have a heart of gold and are therefore friends no matter what, and you do have a good listening ear, you like to fix things for people. However, when Mercury is retrograde, there's a need to be careful you don't over step your mark as it could be seen as interfering instead of helpful.

Scorpio

Don't even think of keeping a secret from your nearest and dearest or close friends. Even if it's something he or she doesn't need to know, if you leave out a few pertinent details, it could be seen as hiding something. Also, keep in mind that having your say and putting across your view point strongly during this period could alienate people. Be open minded enough to listen to other people's opinions even if you do agree to disagree.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are a good investigator, Scorpio, however when you really want to get to the bottom of something, you can in fact end up being your own worst enemy, not knowing when to give up and let go. Beware of becoming nasty when not everyone sees life through your eyes.

Sagittarius

Anything to do with business will be under the microscope. If you are in meetings or finalizing discussions, make sure you double check the arrangement so everyone is on the same page. It's important over his period to take extra care with backing up your work electronically.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You're a freedom lover and need to have the flexibility to move when you have the desire to do so. When you are held back and boxed in over a Mercury retrograde period, you can become withdrawn with feelings of being trapped, instead of strategically working your way out of a tricky situation.

Capricorn

If you are traveling, check and double check the arrangements. Also, make sure you have everything you need packed in your suitcase, and it's a must to label your luggage well. Make sure to allow for delays. Whether it's planes, trains, automobiles or subways, anything to do with travel can be altered. Look out for opportunities to learn something new. There are valuable lessons to be learned during this period.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: Being a business minded person, makes you very efficient and talented at what you do. You are generally organized and productive, but when Mercury goes retrograde, you can go off on tangents and lose control of your day planner. Beware of other people wanting to take control. When you are not balanced within yourself, you can become grumpy and serious.

Aquarius

Be careful if taking someone's throw away comments personally. It probably has nothing to do with you. You just happen to be in the firing line. Money matters can be confusing, and something you've been promised can be delayed. Take life in your stride and see what happens. What's delayed over this period can right itself without any effort from you or anyone else.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: You are a highly intellectual sign and often can't understand why other people can't keep up with your thinking speed. Be careful of being intolerant of anyone who is not on the same page as you because when you get irritable you can cut someone down with a look and a few acid words, causing damage that may not be easily patched up.

Pisces

You could be in for a roller coaster love ride with communication between you and another getting totally out of hand. This is one of those periods where no matter what you say, it only gets worse. Sometimes, it's best to say nothing or very little. Let's just say, this is not the best time to tackle a long standing sensitive issue.

Mercury retrograde information for your star sign: As a Piscean, your imagination is awesome. You like to be positive and gravitate to people who have an optimistic outlook on life. At the best of times, you do not take criticism well and over this period, you are particularly vulnerable to other people's opinions of you and what you do. This in turn can lead you to cutting ties with people who have the potential to hurt you on an emotional level.

September 6 - Labor Day

Time for rest; time for play
We celebrate on Labor Day.

Throughout the year we give our best
We each deserve a little rest.

The days and weeks and years march on
Work well done an unspoken song.

We thank you Lady for giving life
Even when work seems more like strife.

In work we have a chance to show
Our talents perhaps, but surely to grow.

Interrelating and doing our jobs
Helps us remember we're an important cog.

On the wheel of life we turn and go on
Fulfilled when we say "A good job we've done."

September 8, 5:30 am - New Moon

New Moon in Virgo

With the movement of the New Moon cycle into Virgo, we end the exuberant, dramatic, creative, playful and self-promoting emphasis of Leo. Having spent some time seeking the limelight and establishing a center around which to satisfy emotional ego needs, the next order of business in the cycle of creative and personal development is to find work, engage in an occupation and generally "make oneself useful."

Another way to look at it is that having created something, we now need to find a use for it to fill -- or put it to work in the application for which it was invented. We need to find the niche filled by our individual talents and enjoyments. (A dyer in the wool Virgo would say that having taken up space, we ought to give a return on the investment others have made in us. Having been supported this far, we now are obliged to give something back. Truly these folks can be quite puritanically devoted to the virtues of the work ethic.)

Having created art, we now should offer its benefits to others. Having played ... we need to get back to the daily routine. And, finally, having had children (and the romantic interludes which precede these ... additions) we have to put shoulder to the wheel with determination in order to support them!!!

That's what Virgo energy is all about.

One of the realities of astrology, and the order of the signs, is the fact that each succeeding sign is a "reaction" away from the excesses and highly emphasized qualities of its predecessor. Therefore, after the flamboyance and ostentatiousness of Leo energy, with its focus on issues of pride and presentation, comes the modesty, humility and self-effacement of Virgo energy.

And after some of that showy display of Leo energy seeking applause and attention, this quieter, more moderate influence may be welcome.

Virgo energy believes in work ... as a virtue, as a requirement even, for a virtuous, worthwhile, and fulfilling life. And Virgo people seem endowed with an innate desire to justify their existence through the work they perform that suggests something like an inborn inferiority complex drives them, their choices, and their actions throughout life.

Virgos offer service to others as their way of making their lives count for something. They believe deeply in the need to contribute their energy to the benefit of the greater social order, and they are quite willing to accomplish this by performing the routine, mundane, everyday chores and fulfilling the ordinary responsibilities that keep life running smoothly ... while asking nothing but a little quiet appreciation in return, a kind word of thanks, or just the simple knowledge that they have helped make someone else's path a bit easier.

Virgo energy can be remarkably selfless in its methods and tactics, quietly but insistently offering to do whatever needs doing. Arguably Virgo energy gathers up all the self-sacrificing instincts of Pisces -- its polar opposite -- and puts that impulse to physical, practical employment.. Without them to grease the wheels, the cogs of life wouldn't mesh nearly so nicely.

Obviously focusing on "work" as in "the job you do for money" ... is one thing, and Virgos do excel in this. They can be workaholics without equal in their drive to turn in a "job well done." But they are also famous for taking on "work" wherever they find it ... as in "energy spent primarily for the benefit of someone else." This means a willingness to take on chores, favors, errands, assignments, duties, tasks, commitments and responsibilities that can keep them in virtual overload on behalf of others if they aren't careful.

Virgos are fabulous people to know -- and to have around -- when you need to take on a bunch of unglamorous, distasteful little "jobs" in your life ... from filling out your tax forms, to ironing your shirts, to helping you clean out that god-awful garage ... the Virgos will be there, ready, willing, and able to help. In fact, they may insist on doing it all. You get an awful lot of stuff done when Virgo energy is available ... and are delighted with the tidiness that results.

Virgo energy is meticulous, efficient, focused, and intent on perfection. It does things carefully; it pays attention to details; it ties up all those messy loose ends that other signs are content just to let dangle. Virgo energy is analytical, logical, tidy, discriminating and critical.

It catalogues, organizes, concentrates and can always find "more to do." It is neat, and fastidious, and loves bringing order out of chaos. It is also patient, unemotional and shy ... convinced as it seems to be that no matter how stellar the performance it turns in ... enough is never enough.

Virgo's goal is nothing short of perfection. Always. And its notoriously discerning eye can spot the unfortunate flaw so tiny, so minor, so petty that less judgmental signs may need it pointed out to them to see the problem at all.

Virgo is the Mutable Earth sign, concerned with physical reality, the material result, the practical function -- and as such is the sign directly associated with health maintenance and care of the physical body through exercise, diet, nutrition, and effective stress management. These are certainly concerns Virgo itself needs to take to heart -- for stress and overload are notorious parts of the lives of most Virgo souls.

When this energy is not well-integrated into a personal chart, or when it conflicts with more preferred strategies, the results show themselves in actions and attitudes that are high-strung, inconsistent, indecisive, impatient, unfocused, superficial, fussy, nit-picking, carping, and "messy."

It's a most interesting point that when Virgo ... which in its pure form is unrelentingly focused on perfect performance ... finally is overwhelmed with tasks or demands, it gives up completely, sinks into total apathy, won't even make a start at a decent showing. While disorder and clutter pile up around it, it waits almost passively to be swallowed by the rising tide.

If even you need a view of how much work Virgo actually does when it's fit and functioning, just take a look at circumstances when it reaches this kind of paralysis. Suddenly all its invisible effort (or lack thereof) is right out in the open where people can trip over it ... as evidence of its value and contribution.

Virgo specializes in doing the work that doesn't get noticed until it doesn't get done. But when it doesn't get done ... suddenly the chaos and jumble of "order not applied" becomes the condition of one's world.

As mentioned above, the polarity sign for Virgo is Pisces ... Mutable Water. The two signs occupy different ends of the spiritual / physical spectrum. Pisces traffics in the world of psyche and spirit, Virgo in the nitty-gritty minutiae of the physical body.

Pisces concocts the creative vision of life ... Virgo does the grinding work needed to bring the creation into physical reality and then works to support it. Pisces dreams ... Virgo does. Pisces may be the artist, ethereal, fragile, and ever-so-refined. Virgo is the all-important support network of effort needed to let the greater magic happen.

Without its diligence, critical standards, and willingness to go the extra mile and then some ... the rest of us would soon drown in a world of mediocrity. There are those who say that is happening already. If you're one of

them ... consider how bad things would be without Virgo's tireless efforts to manage the backlog. If you're one of them and a Virgo besides, you can go back to work.

With the arrival of the New Moon in Virgo, the theme of life's creative cycle -- and the focus of people in general -- becomes more logical, analytical, discerning, critical, and oriented toward achieving useful, practical results. There is extra emphasis on being efficient, exacting, scrupulous, and even judgmental.

People tend to be concerned with both the "work" they have to do -- whether as a formal part of their paid job, or simply the business of life -- and with the amount of work involved in something they want to accomplish. They want to understand all the details, to know precisely what they are committing themselves to, to see "what good it will do" overall, and to fit it comfortably into their established, organized routine.

There is a lot of emphasis on the mundane, normal, unglamorous, unpleasant, and boring "junk" of daily life. People may find (or feel) they are overwhelmed with work, chores, trivialities, details, favors, responsibilities, tasks, and obligations. They may also start paying better attention to their stress and fatigue levels, and start taking better care of themselves physically -- because of all they have to accomplish and the toll they can tell this is taking.

Under stress, people may be unusually hard to please, closed-minded, opinionated, disapproving, intolerant, and unwilling to consider other perspectives and concerns. They will also be cranky, fault-finding, tunnel-visioned, and overly-tired.

September 22 - Mabon

Mabon

Animals/Mythical Creatures - dogs, wolves, stag, blackbird, owl, eagle, birds of prey, salmon & goat, Gnomes, Sphinx, Minotaur, Cyclops, Andamans and Gulons

Gemstones - yellow agate, carnelian, yellow topaz, sapphire, lapis lazuli & amethyst

Incense/Oil - pine, sweetgrass, apple blossom, benzoin, myrrh, frankincense, jasmine, sage wood aloes, black pepper, patchouli, cinnamon, clove, oak moss

Colors/Candles - brown, green, orange, red, deep gold, scarlet, yellow, russet, maroon, all autumn colors, purple, blue violet & indigo

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - Indian corn, red fruits, autumn flowers, red poppies, hazelnuts, garlands, grains especially wheat stalks, and colorful, fallen leaves, acorns, pine & cypress cones, oak sprigs, pomegranate, statue/or figure to represent the Mother Goddess, Mabon wreath, vine, grapes, gourd, cornucopia/horns of plenty, burial cairns, apples, marigolds, harvested crops, burial cairns, rattles, the Mysteries, sun wheel, all harvest symbols

Goddesses - Modron (Welsh), Bona Dea, Land Mother, Aging & Harvest Deities: the Triple Goddess-Mother aspect, Persephone, Demeter/Ceres, Morgan (Welsh- Cornish), Snake Woman (aboriginal), Epona (Celtic-Gaulish), Pamona (Roman), the Muses (Greek)

Gods -Mabon ap Modron (Welsh), Sky Father, Wine Gods, Aging Gods, John Barleycorn , the Wicker-Man, the Corn Man, Thoth (Egyptian), Hermes, Hotei (Japanese), Thor, Dionysus (Roman), Bacchus (Greek) & all wine deities

Essence - beauty, joy; fullness of life, harvest of the year's desires, strength; laughter; power; prosperity, equality, balance, appreciation, harvest, protection, wealth, security, self-confidence, reincarnation

Dynamics/Meaning - death of the God, assumption of the Crone, balance of light and dark; increase of darkness, grape harvest, completion of the harvest

Purpose - second harvest festival, new wine pressing/making preparation for winter and Samhain, rest after labor, Pagan day of Thanksgiving, honoring the spirit world, celebration of wine

Rituals/Magick - Celtic Festival of the Vine, prosperity rituals, introspection, rituals which enact the elderly aspects of both Goddess & God, past life recall

Customs - offerings to land, preparing for cold weather, bringing in harvest, cutting willow wands (Druidic), eating seasonal fruit, leaving apples upon burial cairns & graves as a token of honor, walk wild places & forests, gather seed pods & dried plants, fermenting grapes to make wine, picking ripe produce, stalk bundling; fishing, on the closest full moon (Harvest Moon) harvesting crops by moonlight.

Foods - cornbread, wheat products, bread, grains, berries, nuts, grapes, acorns, seeds, dried fruits, corn, beans, squash, roots (ie onions, carrots, potatoes, etc), hops, sassafras, apples, pomegranates, carrots, onions, potatoes, roast goose or mutton, wine, ale, & cider

Herbs - myrrh, thistle, tobacco, oak leaf, hazel, mums, hops, acorns, marigold, rose, sage, milkweed, Solomon's seal, aster, fern, honeysuckle, benzoin, myrrh, passionflower, pine & cedar, ivy, hazel, hops, cedar

Element/Gender - water/male

Threshold - evening

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get our Sabbats eBook at

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September 23, 4:17 am - Full Moon

Harvest Moon

The Cherokee refer to September as the Nut Moon for the many nut trees that drop their fruit at this time -- acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts, etc. These provide a rich food source for humans and wildlife. Hunters stake out a spot near a stand of nut trees hoping to find game animals that come to feed. To the Choctaw, this is the Mulberry Moon. Mulberries fruit during much of the summer, but some trees put out one last peak of fruit now. The Dakota Sioux call this the Moon When The Calves Grow Hair. On the plains, when the weather grows chilly, the young buffalo, elk and other animals born earlier this year become shaggy and plump for the winter.

September marks a time when animals and people concentrate on stocking up for the cold season. The selection of fresh foods narrows; many ripening now will store well for a long time. Some baby animals are ready to leave their mothers. Wildlife crowds into stands of berries and nut trees.

Magickally, this is a good time for spells of abundance, especially for saving money. Rituals may honor trees or tree deities. Spells for masculine power and virility are also timely; use seasonal nuts to represent male energy.

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

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Witch SuperCenter September Sale Items

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Magickal Herb Kit, 75 Herbs – Regular Price \$41.99, Sale Price \$36.99

Magickal Herb eBook – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

Herbal Headache Tea – Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price \$4.99

Individual Herbs – 10% off entire Stock -

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=11

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Herb of the Month

Patchouli - Earth/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

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

Stone of the Month

Yellow Agate - Properties: Composed of microscopic crystals of Quartz laid down in colorful bands or ribbons. The appearance of the stone is waxy and soft. Almost always translucent and occasionally transparent. Agates are grounding stones. Agates are one of the oldest good luck stones. They help obtain a better physical/emotional balance. They work to raise consciousness. Agate builds self-confidence and enables the person wearing it to choose their friends carefully. Used to avert from lightning and stormy weather (physically and metaphysically), agate brings prosperity. It is a protector of children. This stone helps us to have patience, and allows for inner peace. Use agate as a gazing tool for divination and meditation. Agate balances emotions and brings insight to any situation.

Folk Remedies: Agate is a fertility stone used for centuries. It is believed to prevent miscarriages and alleviate discomfort during pregnancy. It is a cooling stone used for stomach, colon, liver, spleen, kidneys. Used for centering, taking heart and maintaining blood sugar levels. This is why it is so helpful for dizziness, headaches and impaired balance. anorexia/food issues, lymph nodes, Restores nerve feeling and healing after injury/burns.

Feng Shui: Agate is used primarily anywhere to help bring change. Used in the Center for balance, health and grounding and in the West for children, in the Southwest (as a pair) for fertility and in the East for community and family.

Crystal Cleansing: This stone should be cleansed under luke warm water once a month. Agate can be cleansed and cleared by placing it in the sun as the sun will increase its energy. Crystals react and energize by the light of the moon. The fuller the moon the more energized your crystal becomes. Cleansing is most effective on or near the full moon so that the light can absorb into your crystal.

Creamy Yellow Agate (energy: receptive, element: sun) helps to lighten moods when used properly within a spell, Mustard Yellow Agate (energy: receptive, element: sun) is useful in contacting the creative side of the mind and building an inventive mood.

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

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Tarot Card of the Month

Queen of Pentacles - The Queen of pentacles represents prosperity and security. The security can be either financial or physical. There will be generosity demonstrated and you will find freedom associated with this security. Want to establish yourself TO yourself, to find your 'center' or place where you belong, and for words (prophecies) or ideas to come to light. Keep following your star and you will get your wish. You may have to wait but what you want WILL come.

Good Fortune. You need to protect your good fortune and that of those you care about. Parties that provide you with social connections can greatly benefit you. Patronize the arts and enjoy your riches as best as you can. It will pay off.

With Queens, the emphasis is on your inner state. The Queen of Pentacles is not a real, many-sided person, but she does express an ideal of a certain type. In readings, she asks you to think and feel as she does. For example: Are you feeling warm and caring toward others? Are you being sensible? Have you been true to your word? Do you feel generous? Can you be counted on when times are tough? This Queen can also represent a man or woman who is like her, or an atmosphere of warmth, trust and security. In a reading, she tells you that her special energy has meaning for you at this time. Let yourself be inspired by this Queen in whatever form she appears in your life.

The Queen of Pentacles expresses practical energy. She is the original Earth Mother. She's the one with the rows of home-canned goods on the shelf in the root cellar. She is able to work a full-time job, take care of the children, keep the house clean, and still have time to read the financial section of the Wall Street Journal. She probably has a little nest egg tucked away in a few bank accounts that no one knows about. Her style of mothering is practical. The punishment always fits the crime. Color on the wall? Here, take this wash cloth and clean it up. All done? Good. It's forgotten. You will be responsible for your own actions, and she will make sure of it.

Physical description - dark haired woman. Large, strong constitution, cheerful. The ultimate mother. Personality traits - she is secure, wealthy, enjoys luxury, and abundance. Generous and sincere, but lacking sparkle. Matronly. Good head for business. Sometimes moody, generally very caring.

Pragmatic, sensuous, generous, abundance, practical, astute businesswoman, secretive, financially adept, good mother, nurturer, reserved, wealth, protective of her territory, endurance, stability, spinning and weaving, full of potential, power of prophesy, second sight, common sense, deviation, ancient tradition of earth magic, physically fit, strength, hard working, pleasures of the body, caring for and pampering the body, enjoyment of luxury, dignity, grace, prosperity, steadfast, good organizer, prosperity, harmony, regality, devoted, affectionate, warm hearted, management skills, enjoying the fruits of labor, comfort, fertility, parenthood, love of all living creatures.

Community life, takes responsibility willingly, love of nature, happy giving material help in demanding situations, shrewdness, ownership, steady employment, steady progress, evolution, voluptuous woman, material goods, all the good things in life, benefactress, emotional maturity, provider, philanthropist, display of wealth, practical wisdom, creativity, crafts, Great Mother, actions speak louder than words, confidence, down to earth, loves fresh flowers and good food, both feet on the ground, nurturer, a team player, family woman, tactile, indulgences, gifts, forgiving, firm foundation, sensible, environmentalist, bestower of life and bounty, unconditional love.

Queen of Pentacles - Reversed Tarot Card Meanings

The Queen of Pentacles reversed sees you becoming very consumed in your work. To rebalance your life, you may find a release by returning to a favorite nature spot (a forest, beach, mountain, etc.) and allowing yourself to take in this new energy.

You may also find that you become a bit of a homebody and somewhat isolated from others - you need to fight this urge and keep in touch with your friends and family as they will be a great help and support to you.

The Queen of Pentacles reversed sees you feeling worried about whether you can be financially independent, while also still maintaining your family connections. You may be concerned that if you invest in your career or financial well-being, you might not have enough energy to invest in your family. Sometimes, you just can't do everything and you will need to make some choices.

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

Trees

Alder (*Alnus* spp.) - This tree is a water lover. The oily water resistant wood has been used extensively for underwater foundations and pilings in Venice and elsewhere. It is used in dairy vessels and the branches in making whistles. It is associated with Bran, as He used His body as a bridge to span dangerous waters. It is used in the construction of bridges. Bran's Head was oracular. Alder indicates protection and oracular powers.

Apple (*Malus* spp.) - A dense, fine-grained, rosy-colored wood with a slightly sweet smell. The Apple is the earliest cultivated tree. It is associated with choice. At Somerset, an auction was held for single acre plots on two pieces of common land. Plots were marked and matching marks made on the fruit. The apples were then placed in a bag and commoners were allocated land by the distribution of the fruit. All the acres of land were similar, as many times today choices must be made between similar and equally attractive things. Regardless, the choice must be made. In Norse myth, Idunna was the keeper of the 'apples of immortality' which kept the Gods young. The 'fruit-bearing tree' referred to by Tacitus in his description of Norse runic divination may have been the apple. Apple indicates choice, and is useful for love and healing magic.

Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) - A strong, straight-grained wood; sometimes has 'olive' streaks or stripes in the grain. The European variety (*fraxinus excelsior*) was referred to in the Eddas as the species of Yggdrasil - the 'World-Tree'. The first man, named Ask, was created from an ash log. Ash was commonly used to make spears because of its 'springiness' and straight grain. In North America, strips of black ash were split along the grain to make splints for baskets and hoops. It is used in weaver's beams. Women would weave cloth and intermingling threads together in a tight pattern as the microcosm and the macrocosm are united. Ash can be used in spells requiring focus and strength of purpose, and indicates the linking of the inner and outer worlds.

Beech (*Fagus* spp.) - Beech wood is closely grained, very easy to work giving a smooth even surface. At one time Beech tablets were used as writing surfaces because of the above mentioned qualities. Beech and book have the same word origins. Beech is concerned with ancient knowledge as revealed in old objects, places and writings. Beech indicates guidance from the past to gain insight, which protects and provides a solid base upon which all relies.

Birch (*Betula* spp.) - A lovely pale, fine-grained wood. Long associated with fertility and healing magic, birch twigs were used to bestow fertility on cattle and newlyweds, and children's cradles were made from its wood. Birch is one of the first trees to grow on bare soil and thus it births the entire forest. Criminals were at one time birched to drive out evil influences on them, to renew them for the new year. Birch was associated with Thor, probably in recognition of his role as an agricultural and fertility deity. Birch is an incredibly useful tree - nearly every part of it is edible, and it's sap was an important source of sugar to Native Americans and early settlers. The inner bark provides a pain reliever and the leaves are used to treat arthritis. It's bark was used for everything from paper to canoe hulls, and axe handles were also made from Birch. Birch is most useful for fertility and healing spells.

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) - Blackthorn is a winter tree. The sloe, its fruits ripen and sweeten only after the nip of the frost. White flowers are seen even before the leaves in the spring. It is black barked with vicious thorns and grows in dense thickets. The wood is used in the cudgel shillelagh and Blasting Stick. Its thorns are used to pierce waxen images. Blackthorn indicates strong action of fate or outside influences that must be obeyed.

Elder (*Sambucus* spp.) - The Latin name *sambucus* is derived from a Greek word for a wind instrument made from elder. The pith can easily be removed from the small branches to make a flute. Elder regrows damaged branches with ease and can root rapidly from any part. A tea for purifying the blood can be made from the flowers and wine from the fruit, but in general the tree is poisonous. In Norse mythology, the Goddess Freya chose the black elder as her home. In medieval times it was the abode of witches and it was considered dangerous to sleep under its branches or to cut it down. Sticks of Elder were used as magickal horses by Witches. Elder indicates the end in the beginning and the beginning in the end. Life in Death and Death in Life.

Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) - A slightly fibrous, tan-colored wood with a slight sheen. Elm is often associated with Mother and Earth Goddesses, and was said to be the abode of faeries, explaining Kipling's injunction; "Ailim be the lady's tree; burn it not or cursed ye'll be". Elm wood is valued for it's resistance to splitting, and the inner bark was used for cordage and chair caning. Elm adds stability and grounding to a spell.

Fir (*Abies* spp.) - Fir is a very tall slender tree that grows in mountainous regions on the upper slopes. Fir cones respond to rain by closing and the sun by opening. Fir can see over great distance to the far horizon beyond and below. Fir indicates high views and long sights with clear vision of what is beyond and yet to come.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) - A light, hard, apple-like wood. Hawthorn usually doesn't grow much bigger than a shrub, and is popular in England as a hedge plant. The wood from the Hawthorn provides the hottest fire known. Its leaves and blossoms are used to create a tea to aid with anxiety, appetite loss and poor circulation. The Greeks and

Romans saw the hawthorn as symbolic of hope and marriage, but in medieval Europe it was associated with witchcraft and considered to be unlucky. This seeming contradiction is to be expected from a tree with such beautiful blossoms and such deadly-looking thorns. Hawthorn can be used for protection, love and marriage spells.

Hazel (*Corylus avallania*) - Hazel is another food tree. In Celtic tradition, the Salmon of Knowledge is said to eat the 9 nuts of poetic wisdom dropped into its sacred pool from the hazel tree growing beside it. Each nut eaten by the salmon becomes a spot on its skin. The Hazel tree provided shade, protection and baskets. In Europe and North America, hazel is commonly used for 'water-witching' - the art of finding water with a forked stick. Magickally, hazel wood is used to gain knowledge, wisdom and poetic inspiration.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) - A beautiful white wood with an almost invisible grain; looks very much like ivory. Holly is associated with the death and rebirth symbolism of winter in both Pagan and Christian lore. In Arthurian legend, Gawain (representing the Oak King of summer) fought the Green Knight, who was armed with a holly club to represent winter. It is one of the three timbers used in the construction of chariot wheel shafts. It was also used in spear shafts. The qualities of a spear shaft are balance and directness, as the spear must be hefted to be thrown the holly indicates directed balance and vigor to fight if the cause is just. Holly may be used in spells having to do with sleep or rest, and to ease the passage of death.

Larch (*Larix europaea*) - A light softwood, very similar to spruce. Larch is one of the few conifers which shed its needles in the winter. It is closely related to the North American tamarack (*larix laricina*). The larch plays an important role in Sami (Lapp) and Siberian mythology where it takes the place of the ash as the World-tree. Their shamans use larch wood to rim their ceremonial drums. The smoke from burning larch is said to ward off evil spirits. Larch may be used for protection and to induce visions.

Maple (*Acer* spp.) - A very hard, pale, fine-grained wood. Although the sugar maple has the highest sugar content in its sap, all maple species can be tapped to make syrup and sugar, making them a vital resource to early North American settlers. In north-eastern North America, the annual 'sugaring-off' usually coincides with the vernal equinox, making it one of the first signs of spring. Maple can bring success and abundance.

Oak (*Quercus* spp.) - Oak has been considered sacred by just about every culture that has encountered the tree, but it was held in particular esteem by the Norse and Celts because of its size, longevity, and nutritious acorns. The oak is frequently associated with Gods of thunder and lightning such as Zeus, Thor, and the Lithuanian God Perkunas. This association may be due to the oak's habit of being hit by lightning during storms. Specific oak trees have also been associated with the 'Wild Hunt', which is led by Herne in England and by Wodin in Germany. In general, oak can be used in spells for protection, strength, success and stability; the different varieties will lend their own special 'flavor' to the magic.

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) - A strong, straight-grained, slightly porous wood with a slight reddish hue. Its energy is a bit lighter and more 'fiery' than the other oaks.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) - Darker and denser than red oak. Its strength and density have led to its being used in barrel-making and shipbuilding. It is useful for spells requiring strength and solidity.

Brown (English) Oak (*Quercus robur*) - A richly-colored dark brown wood. 'Bog oak' is brown oak which has fallen into a peat bog and been preserved there for hundreds of years until it begins to have the consistency of coal. Brown oak has a very earthy feel, and is useful for grounding.

Pine (*Pinus* spp.) - The Pine tree is an evergreen, its old title was "the sweetest of woods". Its needles are a valuable source of vitamin C and can loosen a tight chest. The scent of Pine is useful in the alleviation of guilt. The Bach's flower remedies lists it for dealing with feelings of guilt. Pine indicates issues of guilt within you.

Poplar (*Populus* spp.) - The White Poplar flourishes beside rivers, in marshes and in other watery areas. The pith is star shaped. The upper leaves are green, the underside is silver. The wood was used in the making of shields. Leaves move with every puff of wind. It is commonly referred to as the talking, whispering and quivering tree. The Anglo-Saxon rune poem seems to refer to the poplar as being associated with the rune berkano. Heracles wore a crown of poplar leaves when he retrieved Cerberus from Hades, and the upper surface of the leaves was thus darkened from Hades' smoky fumes. In Christian lore, the quaking poplar (aspen) was used to construct Christ's cross, and the leaves of the tree quiver when they remember this fact. The Poplar's ability to resist and to shield, its association with speech, language and the Winds indicates an ability to endure and conquer.

Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) - The Rowan tree (also called Mountain Ash) is long known for aid and protection against enchantment. Sticks of the Rowan were used to carve Runes on. It was also used in the art of metal divining. Rowan spays and crosses were placed over cattle in pens and over homes for protection. Its lovely red berries feed the birds in winter. The berries have a tiny pentagram on them. The pentagram is the ancient symbol of protection. The Rowan tree indicates protection and control of the senses from enchantment and beguiling.

Willow (*Salix babylonica*) - The willow is another water loving tree. Willow bark contains Salicin which is used in the treatment of rheumatic fever and various damp diseases. Her catkins, which appear in early spring before her leaves, attract bees to start the cycle of pollination. In western tradition it is a symbol of mourning and unlucky love. The Latin name for the weeping willow refers to the psalm in which the Hebrews mourn their captivity in Babylon by the willows. Willow indicates cycles, rhythms and the ebb and flux.

Yew (*Taxus baccata*) - A beautifully smooth, gold-colored wood with a wavy grain. All parts of the tree are poisonous except the fleshy covering of the berry, and its medicinal uses include a recently discovered treatment for cancer. Long associated with magick, death, rebirth and the runes, the yew may be the oldest-lived tree in the world. Ancient yews can be found in churchyards all over Britain, where they often pre-date even the oldest churches. There are some convincing arguments for it being the original 'World-tree' of Scandinavian

mythology. In Europe, yew wood was used for making bows, while on the northwest coast of North America, the Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) is used by the Haida and other tribes for making masks and boxes. Yew may be used to enhance magickal and psychic abilities, and to induce visions.

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Spell of the Month

Lunar Magick and Candle Magick Guide

| Moon In | Spells to Do | Candle Color | Body Part to Heal |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Aries | Authority Leadership Willpower Rebirth | Red Crimson Scarlet Burgundy | Face Head Brain |
| Taurus | Love Magick Money | Green Pink Turquoise | Throat Neck Ears |
| Gemini | Communication Writing Travel Public Relations | Mauve | Shoulders Arms Hands Lungs |
| Cancer | Lunar Deities Home Domestic Life | Silver Grey White | Chest Stomach |
| Leo | Courage Fertility Child Birth | Gold Yellow Orange | Upper Back Spine Heart |
| Virgo | Employment Intellect | Navy Blue Rust-orange | Intestines Nervous System Health Diets |
| Libra | Art Justice Partnership Karma, Spirituality | Royal Blue | Kidneys Lower Back Emotional Healing |
| Pisces | Dreams & ESP Music & Art | Lavender Aquamarine | Feet |
| Scorpio | Sexuality Psychic Growth | Red Black | Reproductive Organs |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sagittarius | Travel Truth Legal Matters | Purple Dark Blue | Liver Thighs Hips |
| Capricorn | Career Organization Ambition Recognition | Black Dark Brown Brown | Knees Bones Skin Teeth |
| Aquarius | Science Friendship Break Bad Habits Freedom Creativity | Light Blue | Blood Ankles |

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