



THE WITCHES' ALMANAC, LTD.

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THE
COMPLETE GUIDE
TO LUNAR HARMONY

\$6.95

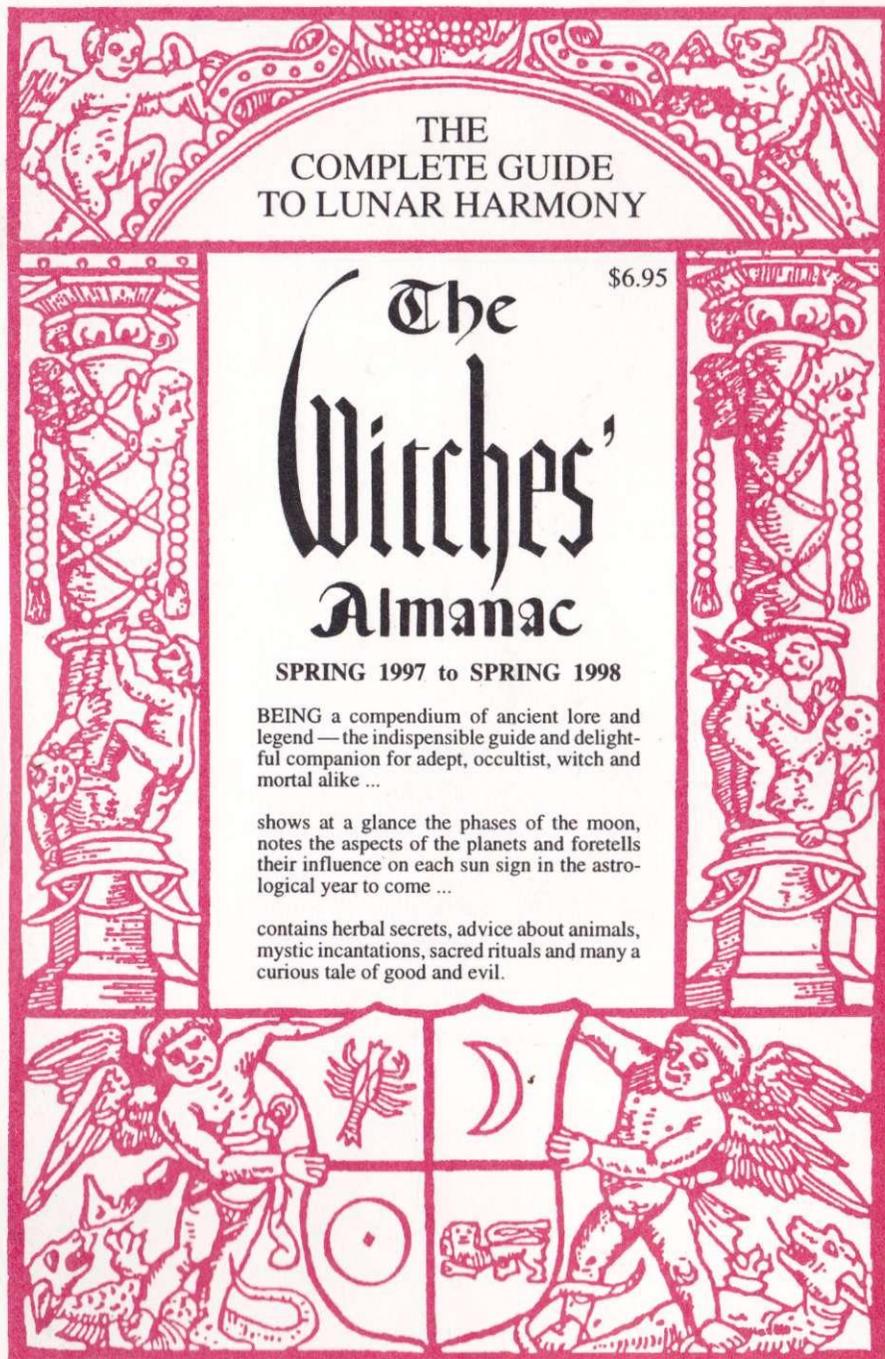
The Witches' Almanac

SPRING 1997 to SPRING 1998

BEING a compendium of ancient lore and legend — the indispensable guide and delightful companion for adept, occultist, witch and mortal alike ...

shows at a glance the phases of the moon, notes the aspects of the planets and foretells their influence on each sun sign in the astrological year to come ...

contains herbal secrets, advice about animals, mystic incantations, sacred rituals and many a curious tale of good and evil.



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The Witches' Almanac

SPRING 1997 — SPRING 1998

For the first time combining the mysterious wiccan and arcane secrets of an old England witch with one from New England



Prepared and edited by
ELIZABETH PEPPER and JOHN WILCOCK

CONTAINING pictorial and explicit delineations of the magical phases of the Moon together with full and complete information about astrological portents of the year to come and various aspects of occult knowledge enabling all who read to improve their lives in the old manner.

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Newport
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Preface

What is witchcraft? Not hard to tell, for its practice is nothing more than a matter of assuming responsibility for the wondrous gift of life. What is most important isn't what happens to you, but rather how you respond to the challenge.

Consider that one element of life is predetermined by genetic and environmental factors. Another calls upon the power of the will. That remaining is subject to chance or luck. To develop willpower requires time, effort and patience. It can be fostered by setting possible goals and achieving them. Results prove to be cumulative, because each victory makes the next one easier. By magical means we know courage can be summoned in the darkest hour, hope sustained when all seems lost, and good luck caught as it flies across the web of time. The source of magic is within you and your relation to nature itself. The key is an extended awareness of the kinship we share with all living things.

Many of our readers are natural witches. "I know mine and mine know me" might well apply to the craft, for the attraction to its doctrines appears in early childhood. Curiously, this inexplicable interest never fades. Others find the way by various routes: an enlightening event or a chance encounter. To one and all, witchcraft is an ongoing study that encompasses every aspect of the human experience, deepening and enriching the pleasure and glory of the mysterious quest we call life on Earth.



Spring 1997 to Spring 1998

March 20.....	Vernal Equinox
April 1.....	All Fools' Day
April 30.....	Beltane Eve
May 1.....	Roodmas
May 8.....	White Lotus Day
May 9, 11, 13.....	Lemuria
May 29.....	Oak Apple Day
June 5.....	Night of The Watchers
June 20.....	Midsummer Night
June 21.....	Summer Solstice
June 24.....	St. John's Day
July 31.....	Lughnassad Eve
August 1.....	Lammas
August 13.....	Diana's Day
August 29.....	Day of Thoth
September 22.....	Autumnal Equinox
October 31.....	Samhain Eve
November 1.....	Hallowmas
November 16.....	Hecate Night
December 17.....	Saturnalia
December 21.....	Winter Solstice
January 9.....	Feast of Janus
February 1.....	Oimeic Eve
February 2.....	Candlemas
March 1.....	Matronalia

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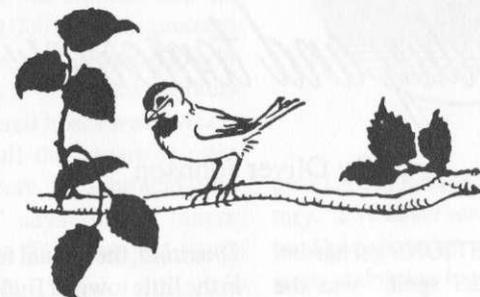


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Tell me, tell me, smiling child,
What the past is like to thee?
"An autumn evening, soft and mild,
With a wind that sighs mournfully."

Tell me, what is the present hour?
"A green and flowery spray,
Where a young bird sits gathering its power
To mount and fly away."

And what is the future, happy one?
"A sea beneath a cloudless sun—
A mighty, glorious, dazzling sea,
Stretching into infinity."

—EMILY JANE BRONTË
1818-1848



today and tomorrow

By Oliver Johnson

"AS LIFE'S QUESTIONS get harder, magic casts a wider spell," was the heading on an essay in *The New York Times* exploring the theory that today's society is in a relentless search for something to believe in. "The rise of tattoos, which are magical amulets, and the explosion of state lotteries and legalized gambling, which both court Lady Luck, are manifestations of this hunger," observes market researcher George Rosenbaum. "So is the disaffection with traditional religions and the proliferation of cures that rely on an eating regime. People want to short-circuit complicated, rational decision-making and put their faith in a simple belief system." The popularity of magic has waxed and waned throughout history, the *Times* explained, with the mystical power of certain foods often playing a major—and often totally illogical—role. In the 17th century, for example, it was believed that tomatoes caused wanton behavior.

AND ON THE SUBJECT of tomatoes, there surely could be no better example of wanton behavior than *La*

Tomatina, the annual food fight staged in the little town of Buñol, Spain, when about half a million pieces of the juicy fruit ricochet around the main square, splattering everybody and everything in sight. Some like to regard the messy shindig as a folk festival, but the truth is that its origins owe more to Buñol's patron saint, San Luis Bertran, whose annual procession a mere fifty-three years ago was interrupted by boys



throwing tomatoes. Apart from bringing publicity to the town, locals thought it was such fun that they turned it into an annual custom which brings tourists in from all over Europe. Shopkeepers cover their windows, everybody dresses in old clothes, and the town spends \$20,000 importing enough tomatoes for everyone to toss. By early afternoon it's all over, and workers with high-powered hoses wash everything down until the square is even cleaner than before. "It's the acid from the tomatoes," says former mayor Andres Perello. "It makes the pavement shine."

THE OLDEST HOUSE in England, or at least the one that's been continually lived in the longest, went on sale last year—complete with gables and ghosts. Built in 1080, Little Dean Hall near Cinderford in Gloucestershire was named for the the Dean family, local lords of the manor until 1327, and later occupied by Major John Wade, the puritanical administrator of the Forest of Dean in Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth which followed the 17th century civil war. Two Royalist officers who attacked the house in that conflict were executed in the dining room and are reputed to haunt it. A secret exit, a so-called "priest hole," behind the paneling was built as an escape route for persecuted Catholic clerics.

The ghosts of two brothers who shot each other in a dispute over a woman are also said to walk the house. "Passions like hate and love have left their impressions here," said Donald Mace-Wright, whose family has occu-



ried Little Dean Hall for the past century. "I've never seen any of the ghosts, but I have heard strange noises—footsteps and doors banging."

Cellars under the house, built over the remains of a Roman site, have been identified as part of a Saxon-Norman hall which may have been converted from an even earlier 6th-century church.

MORE GHOSTS, along with tales of smugglers and buried treasure, are reported from the city of Exeter in southwestern England where, after six and half centuries, local authorities decided that a two-mile system of medieval underground passages would be a good tourist attraction. "We're said to be the the most haunted city in England," declares Gary Marshall, an official guide to the tunnels which were created in 1346 to supply the cathedral community with its first piped water supply. "Children love the passages. There's no danger, but they don't know that when they arrive. There's a huge mystery about the place from the moment they walk in."

Back in the 14th century, water was sold from the underground pipes

for one penny a bucketful; and in 1451, to celebrate a royal visit from Henry VI in the middle of his fifty-year reign, seven hundred gallons of red wine were pumped through the system to be sold at the same price. Then, as now, it helped to be thin to negotiate passages that are only two feet wide at most.

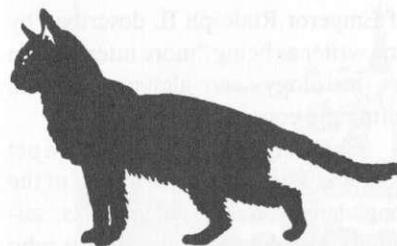
"The first ghost inhabits that passage over there," Marshall explains to visitors. "His name's Albert, and you can't mistake him because he rides a Victorian bicycle. Actually we haven't seen Albert since 1960. The bad news is that our second ghost, a Royalist soldier, arrives in this room every six months. He terrified one of our guides not long ago by walking right through him."



A SERIES OF mysterious fires apparently due to spontaneous combustion have alarmed the small town of Moirans in eastern France, and now superstitious residents are muttering about Lucifer. A man with a divining pendulum is pacing back and forth along the Rue Roussin, and a witch doctor has held court in a local bistro. "In thirty years I have never known anything like this," says Bernard Grossford,

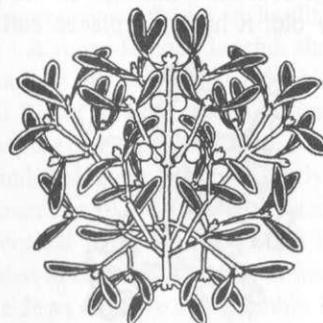
regional director of the electricity company whose new underground cables have recently been exonerated of causing the problems. Small objects such as garden furniture, bags of cement, and packets of food have been bursting into flames, with other small fires breaking out in cupboards and drawers. The best brains in France—physicists, seismologists, geologists—have all tried unsuccessfully to solve the mystery. The latest theories center around Jean Meunier's suggestion that the town sits on a geophysical fault line which allows the escape of ionized hydrogen to ignite. Meunier, an expert on the study of volcanoes, says, "This idea may sound strange, but nobody believed Galileo at first either."

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE BARRED by law from making diagnoses or prescribing medicine, spiritual healers in Britain are now allowed to "lay hands" on animals already under a veterinarian's care, and some shamans are claiming surprising successes. One such healer, Nicky Prouvost, who runs a pet clinic in Totnes, Devon, reports satisfactory results with a five-year-old Doberman partly paralyzed with multiple sclerosis; a bull mastiff with a persistent skin irritation; and a seven-year-old cat suffering from feline leukemia. All these and others dramatically improved with apparently little more than a few minutes spent with Nicky's healing hands. "They quickly understand that I want to help them," says Nicky, who charges about \$25 per session. "If the animal is nervous, it is often picking up feelings of tension from its owner, who is understandably



anxious. The owner often needs to be calmed down as well, so I treat them together." Meanwhile, working with a team from Cornell University, Soraya Juarbe-Diaz has been testing cats to gauge their personalities—the idea being that if owners and animals could be better matched, fewer pets would be abandoned.

FROM RUSSIA comes news that the Druidic priests of Gaul were right to honor the mistletoe. In their language, it meant "all healing" and was reverently harvested by white-clad priests armed with golden sickles. Now scientists from Moscow's Institute of Genetics of Micro Organisms have declared that the favorite Christmas berry contains a chemical similar to ricin, a substance already in use in chemotherapy, and are working with a German company to test it as an anti-cancer drug.



BITS AND PIECES: Salem Baptist Church in London has changed its name to Kew Baptist Church because of its association with the "hysterical witchcraft trials" of its namesake in Massachusetts. "Salem is a lovely name, meaning peace," says one of the pastors, "but it sounds old-fashioned." . . . For centuries, as the mists have swirled over Cornwall's Bodmin Moor, wayfarers have claimed sightings of a frightening yellow-eyed creature tagged "The Beast of Bodmin." Now an official enquiry has concluded a six-month investigation into the phenomenon. The \$12,000 report by the Agricultural Advisory and Development Service, entitled *Evidence for the Presence of Large Exotic Cats in the Bodmin Area and Their Possible Impact on Livestock*, has concluded that no such creature exists. Meanwhile, a Scottish cartoonist is offering (for \$12) gift packages of Loch Ness Monster droppings. . . . Still burning after two hundred years in the fireplace of the Saltersgate Inn, is a fire started in 1796 to avert suspicion from the burial beneath the hearth of a customs officer murdered by smugglers. Traditions aver that if the fire ever goes out, disaster will befall the North Yorkshire pub. . . . Anticipating the crowds when the movie *Loch Ness* is released, 33-year-old Steve Feltham is spending his sixth winter living in a converted van beside the bleak Scottish lake. He's never seen the monster, but he's convinced it's in there somehow and meanwhile scratches out a meager living selling ceramic models of the creature that he makes himself.

PRAGUE

Through the centuries the city of Prague has survived invasions, political divisions, bitter religious dissension, and Soviet domination, but now it threatens to be overwhelmed by an unprecedented wave of tourism. Maybe it's fitting that so many would be drawn to what might well be regarded as Europe's most magical capital.

It was during the 1346-78 reign of Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV that Prague of Bohemia became the glittering capital of medieval Europe. Charles built the country's first university, whose onetime rector, Jan Hus, angered Pope Gregory XII (the former pirate who was later deposed) with his speeches campaigning against church corruption. In his day, the church owned half the land in Bohemia, practiced simony, and imposed heavy taxes. Lured to Germany in 1415, Hus was burned at the stake in Constance on his forty-sixth birthday.

With the aid of his young architect Peter Parler, the multilingual Charles renovated the 10th-century Hradcany Castle, in whose inner courtyard St Vitus' Cathedral stands on the site of a pagan shrine to Svantovit, the Slavonic god of air and light. From the solitary black tower runs the short street, Zlatá ulická, lined with the tiny rooms filled two centuries later with the alchemists

of Emperor Rudolph II, described by one writer as being "more interested in art, astrology, and alchemy than in ruling the country."

Certainly Rudolph, owner of a pet lion, was a generous host to half of the magicians, sorcerers, alchemists, scientists, astrologers, and prophets who descended on the court during his reign. (The other half, deemed charlatans, were hanged.) Rudolph collected magical tools, sending emissaries all over the world in search of them and assembling a collection that when acquired by the Queen of Sweden after his death in 1612 is said to have filled two hundred carts.

Rudolph's astronomer, Tycho Brahe, was responsible for the most complete study of the solar system before the invention of the telescope. He discovered a nova in the constellation of Cassiopeia, and after his death, his assistant Johannes Kepler became even more famous than the master. A distinctive figure, Brahe lost his nose in a duel and for most of his life wore a false one. His tombstone in Prague's twin-towered Tyn Church is shaped like a witch's hat and bears the inscription, *Better to be than seem to be.*

By Rudolph's time, the Charles Bridge over the Vltava River was already old, it having replaced earlier



Prague, the Golden City

B. Granville Baker, 1924.

bridges which had been destroyed by floods. The Vltava, flowing 270 miles from the rolling hills of Bohemia to the River Elbe, was earlier known as the Moldau and is featured as such in one of the six symphonic poems by the Czech composer Bedrich Smetana. The bridge has always been the center of Prague's activity. At one time, delinquents were placed in wicker baskets hanging from the bridge and dunked in the river for their sins. Today, lined with religious statues, it is invariably filled with folk singers and musicians, one of whom specializes in performing Beethoven on wine glasses. It is said that when Peter Parler began the bridge in 1357 he requested a load of eggs to mix with and strengthen the mortar, but when the first wagonload of eggs arrived, they were hardboiled.

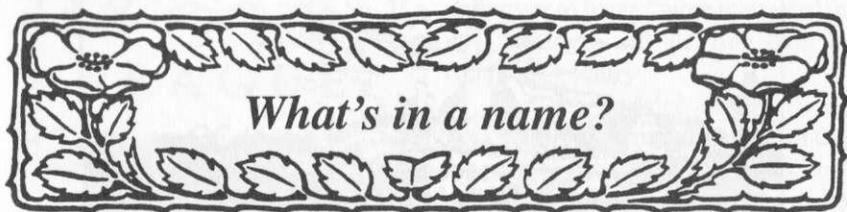
A more famous legend, though, concerns the celebrated Jewish cabalist Rabbi Judah Loew, notorious for creating from clay the Golem, a simple-minded servant who subsequently went berserk and had to be de-activated. It is recorded that when Rudolph II decided to clear the ghetto and force all the Jews to leave town, Rabbi Loew

stationed himself on the bridge to block the emperor's passage across to Malá Strana, the old town. All the spectators as well as the four horsemen preceding the imperial carriage shouted to him to get out of the way, but Loew stood his ground. Stones were thrown at him, yet when they hit his robe they turned to flowers. The horses would go no further, and the rabbi approached the motionless carriage, kneeled and pleaded with Rudolph, his fellow magician, on behalf of his people. The Jews were allowed to stay.

A sculpture by Ladislav Saloun of Rabbi Judah Loew (1520-1609) stands next to the town hall on Prague's Mariánské Street, and the rabbi is buried in the Old Jewish Cemetery where even today his grave is often covered with pebbles and scraps of paper bearing pleas for wishes to be granted.

Prague is a very special city. Its narrow, winding streets, remarkable architecture, and beautiful natural surroundings virtually compel visitors to be swept away by the magic and the history of Prague.

—ANGELO QUATTROCCHI



What's in a name?

Swedish botanist Carl von Linné (1707-1778) is better known to the world as Linnaeus. The latinization of his name is singularly appropriate for he devised the Latin binomial system of plant classification. This two-part form for naming plants was so efficient that it is still the only way to positively identify a plant by name. He coined internationally usable names for approximately 7700 species of plants; matching their names with descriptions, diagnoses, or illustrations that made evident and stabilized their application. He did this with a taste for beauty and in fine poetic style. The naming of species to link them to their use or appearance was in keeping with the custom of using common or folk names, but added precise designation. The following list accurately describes many of our favorite plants—by name.

Agrimony-*Agrimonia eupatoria*

Church steeples, cocklebur

All-heal-*Prunella vulgaris*

Woundwort, self-heal, sickle wort, sticklewort

Angelica-*Angelica officinalis*

Masterwort, archangel

Arnica-*Arnica montana*

Wolf's bane, mountain tobacco, leopardsbane

Bay-*Laurus nobilis*

Sweet bay, sweet laurel, indian bay

Belladonna-*Atropa belladonna*

Dwale, black cherry

Bittersweet-*Amara dulcis*

Mortal, felon wort, fever twig

Bladderwrack-*Fucus vesiculosus*

Kelp, sea wrack, gulfwrack

Bloodroot-*Sanguinaria canadensis*

Red root, indian paint, red puccoon, tetterwort



Borage-*Borago officinalis*

Bugloss, burage, bee flower

Broadleaf Plantain-*Plantago major*

Snakeweed, ribwort

Broom-*Sarothamnus scoparius*

Broomtops, scotch broom

Burdock-*Arctium lappa*

Blotbur, cocklebur, beggar's buttons, bardana

Catnip-*Nepeta cataria*

Catnep, catmint, nip

Cinquefoil-*Potentilla canadensis*

Five-finger grass

Cleavers-*Galium aparine*

Goose grass, bed straw, catchweed

Coltsfoot-*Tussilago farfara*

Ass's foot, horse's hoof, coughwort, ginger root

Comfrey-*Symphytum officinale*

Knitbone, boneset, bruisewort, knitback, wallwort, gum plant

Couchgrass-*Agropyron repens*

Witchgrass, dog's grass, triticum

Crampbark-*Viburnum opulus*

Squawbush, high cranberry

Dandelion-*Taraxacum officinale*

Pee in the bed, lion's teeth, fairy clock, blow ball

Dragon Root-*Arum triphyllum*

Indian turnip, wake robin, Jack-in-the-pulpit

Elder-*Sambucus canadensis*

Sambucus, sweet elder, lady elder

Eyebright-*Euphrasia officinalis*

Red eye bright

Feverfew-*Pyrethrum parthenium*

Featherfew, febrifuge plant

Fennel-*Foeniculum officinale*

Wild fennel, large fennel

Foxglove-*Digitalis purpurea*

Lion's mouth, fairy fingers, witches' bells, fairy thimbles

Garlic-*Allium sativum*

Poor man's treacle

German Chamomile-*Matricaria chamomilla*, Wild chamomile

Horehound-*Marrubium vulgare*

Marrubium, eye of the star

Horsetail-*Equisetum arvense*

Mare's tail, shave grass



Irish Moss-*Chondrus crispus*

Carragheen, pearl moss

Lemon Balm-*Melissa officinalis*

Bee balm, melissa, sweet balm

Lobelia-*Lobelia inflata*

Indian tobacco, asthma weed, pukeweed, gagroot

Monkshood-*Aconitum napellus*

Wolf's bane, aconite



Motherwort-*Leonurus cardiaca*
Lion's tail, lion's ear, throw-wort

Mugwort-*Artemisia vulgaris*
Felon plant, St. John's plant

Mullein-*Verbascum thapsus*
Hag's tapers, donkey's ears, velvet dock, flannel leaf

Myrtle-*Myrica cerifera*
Waxberry, candleberry

Nettle-*Urtica dioica*
Stinging nettle, seven-minute-itch

Nightshade-*Datura stramonium*
Thorn-apple, jimson weed

Peppermint-*Mentha piperita*
Lamint, brandy mint

Pussy Willow-*Salix nigra*
Catkins willow, black willow

Queen Anne's Lace-*Daucus carota*
Wild Carrot, bee's nest plant, bird's nest root

Red Clover- *Trifolium pratense*
Wild clover, trefoil

Rowan-*Sorbus aucoparia*
Mountain ash, sorb apple

Rosemary-*Rosmarinus officinalis*
Polar Plant, compass-weed

Rue-*Ruta graveolens*
Herb of grace, german rue

Sage-*Salvia officinalis*
Sawge

Sheep Sorrel-*Rumex acetosella*
Sourgrass, red sorrel

St. John's Wort-*Hypericum perforatum*, Sin-jin weed

Scullcap-*Scutellaria lateriflora*
Mad dogweed, blue pimpernel, hood-wort, helmet flower

Shepherd's Purse-*Capsella bursa-pastoris*, Witch's pouches, mother's heart

Skunk Cabbage-*Symplocarpus foetidus*, Meadow cabbage, polecat weed, skunkweed

Squawvine-*Mitchella repens*
Partridgeberry, deerberry, winter clover, hive vine

Tansy-*Tanacetum vulgare*
Bitter buttons, parsley fern

Teaberry-*Gaultheria procumbens*
Wintergreen, periwinkle

Valerian-*Valeriana officinalis*
All-heal, setwall, vandal root

Wormwood-*Artemisia absinthium*
Absinth, green ginger, old woman

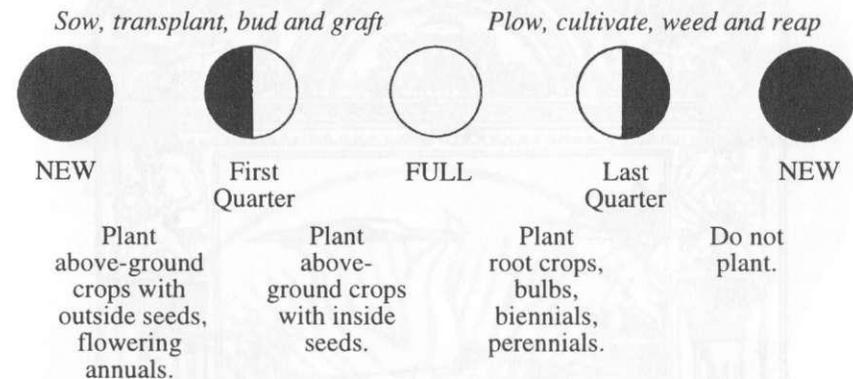
Yarrow-*Achillea millefolium*
Nosebleed, millefoil, thousandleaf, soldier's woundwort

Yellowdock-*Rumex crispus*
Curled dock, narrow dock, rumex

—KERRY CUDMORE

MOON GARDENING

BY PHASE



BY PLACE IN THE ZODIAC

Fruitful Signs

Cancer - Most favorable planting time for all leafy crops bearing fruit above ground. Prune to encourage growth in Cancer.

Scorpio - Second only to Cancer, a Scorpio Moon promises good germination and swift growth. In Scorpio, prune for bud development.

Pisces - Planting in the last of the Watery Triad is especially effective for root growth.

Taurus - The best time to plant root crops is when the Moon is in the sign of the Bull.

Capricorn - The Earthy Goat Moon promotes the growth of rhizomes, bulbs, roots, tubers and stalks. Prune now to strengthen branches.

Libra - Airy Libra may be the least beneficial of the Fruitful Signs, but is excellent for planting flowers and vines.

Barren Signs

Leo - Foremost of the Barren Signs, the Lion Moon is the best time to effectively destroy weeds and pests. Cultivate and till the soil.

Gemini - Harvest in the Airy Twins; gather herbs and roots. Reap when the Moon is in a sign of Air or Fire to assure best storage.

Virgo - Plow, cultivate, and control weeds and pests when the moon is in Virgo.

Sagittarius - Plow and cultivate the soil or harvest under the Archer Moon. Prune now to discourage growth.

Aquarius - This dry sign of Air is perfect for ground cultivation, reaping crops, gathering roots and herbs. It is a good time to destroy weeds and pests.

Aries - Cultivate, weed, and prune to lessen growth. Gather herbs and roots for storage.

Consult our Moon Calendar pages for phase and place in the zodiac circle. The Moon remains in a sign for about two and a half days. Match your gardening activity to the day that follows the Moon's entry into that zodiac sign.



Trionfi, Petrarch

Venice, 1492.

Triumph of Love

Where love rules, there is no will to power;
and where power predominates, there love is lacking.
The one is the shadow of the other.

—CARL G. JUNG

The MOON Calendar

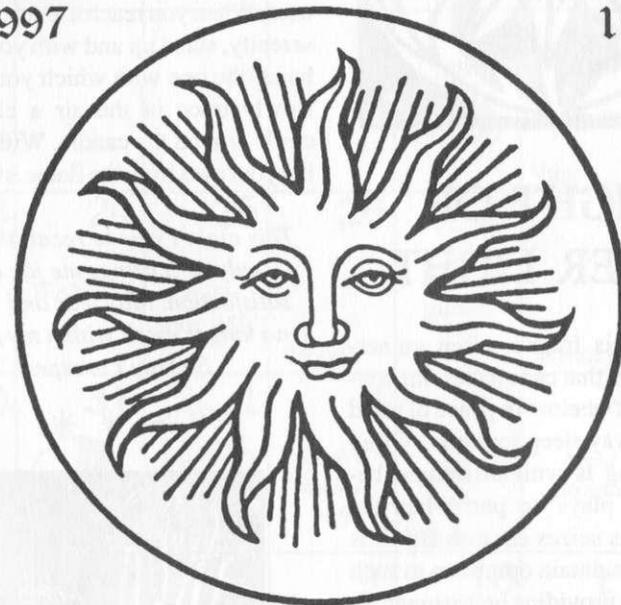


1997

is divided into zodiac signs rather
than the more familiar Gregorian calendar.



1998



Bear in mind that new projects should be initiated when the Moon is waxing (from dark to full): when the Moon is on the wane (from full to dark), it is a time for storing energy and the wise person waits.

Please note that Moons are listed by day of entry into each sign. Quarters are marked, but as rising and setting times vary from one region to another, it is advisable to check your local newspaper, library or planetarium.

The Moon's Place is computed for Eastern Standard Time



NIGHT OF INNER LIGHT

Self-esteem is fragile, often vulnerable to forces that can shatter our confidence, overwhelm our peace of mind and drive away sleep for hours. Often this suffering is without reason, because logic plays no part when the subconscious seizes control. But it is possible to maintain optimism in such situations by providing nourishment to the self-image with positive thoughts.

Spring is the perfect time to begin an affirmative program, as Dark of the Moon and April both inspire a sense of anticipation conducive to psychic clarity. When you feel down about yourself, take advantage of the following ritual to help you gain control of negative thoughts:

Set aside an hour or two of privacy on the night of April 7th, and begin to awaken in your mind the relevant memories.

Choose a candlestick you especially like and reserve it for this use

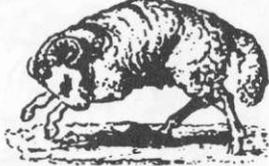
only. Seated in darkness, light a pure white candle and stare into the blue of the flame until you feel at ease within yourself. You are about to set in motion a renewal of courage, vitality, and good cheer by this creative act. Let your mind wander as it will, clearing away all negative debris. Concentrate on your own worth and essential goodness. When you reach a level of perfect serenity, stand up and with your major hand (the one with which you write), slowly trace in the air a clockwise circle around the candle. Without taking your eyes from the flame, say aloud:

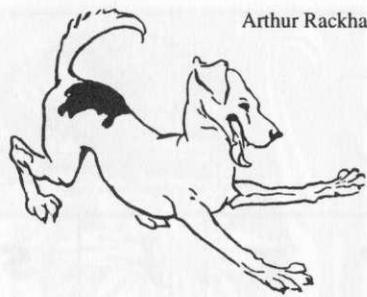
*This night I vow to recall the past
only as it brings me joy and
satisfaction. May fear and regret
no longer dwell within my heart.
So may I prosper.*

* * *



Aubrey Beardsley

 aries March 21- April 20 						
Mars			Cardinal Sign of Fire			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1997 Vernal Equinox	Mar. 21 22 <i>Take no chances</i>
					Virgo	
23  partial lunar eclipse-Libra	24 WANING	25 <i>Mary Webb born, 1881</i>	26 Scorpio	27 <i>Plan a garden</i>	28 Sagittarius	29 <i>Maintain your poise</i>
30 <i>Stay aloof</i> Capricorn	31 	Apr. 1 All Fool's Day Aquarius	2 <i>Spirit is the true self</i>	3 <i>Integrity above all</i> Pisces	4 <i>Avoid intrigue</i>	5
6 <i>Set clocks ahead one hour</i> Aries	7 	8 WAXING Taurus	9 <i>Kindle a flame</i>	10 Gemini	11 <i>Never underrate yourself</i>	12 <i>Trust to luck</i> Cancer
13 <i>Samuel Beckett born, 1906</i>	14 	15 <i>Choose to be happy</i> Leo	16	17 <i>Timing is the key</i> Virgo	18	19 Libra
20 <i>Shift to a new pattern</i> Libra						



Arthur Rackham

Kin of the Wolf

The Bell Coola Indians believed that someone once tried to change all the animals into men but succeeded in making human only the eyes of the wolf.

—BARRY LOPEZ
Of Wolves and Men

A muzzle is raised to the sky, followed by a long, wailing howl. Irresistibly, others follow suit. This phenomenon regularly occurs within a pack of wolves, with voices lifting to the heavens in a ritual of communication and bonding. This also describes a familiar occurrence in many human homes. The participants are the family dog and its pack, its human pack.

Does this sound particularly familiar to you? Many people find themselves speaking the language of the wolf in their own living rooms. As dogs nip at our faces, dig in the carpet, and howl as a fire truck passes outside our window, they expect us to join in their wolfish activities—and we do. To the true “dog-people” these things seem as natural as breathing.

How can you tell if you’re a human of the canine persuasion? Take a moment to answer a few questions:

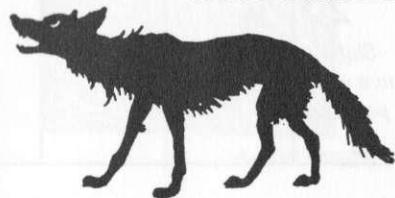
1. Do you willingly join in any howl, regardless of the quizzical looks generated by other people present?
2. Does a chewed sneaker just seem like “one of those things?”
3. Do you find yourself seeking out the resident dog at parties, leaving hosts and other guests abandoned?
4. Can you more readily recall dogs you’ve encountered than people?

If you’ve answered “yes” to one of these questions, chances are you’ve answered “yes” to all of them. People who share in this attachment to their canine companions tend to have friends who are similarly inclined. This leads to conversations rich in “You should have seen . . .” and “guess what he did the other day.”

Our dog companions are thoroughly integrated in our daily lives. For example, the young in wolf packs are tended by all adults, regardless of relation. Dogs tend our pups (otherwise known as children) within our homes simply because these children are part of their pack.

For the true lover of dogs, life seems empty without the wet nose, intelligent eyes, and wagging tail of a resident dog. Perhaps it is a longing for loyal companionship, or simply the need for a friend who does not judge. Or perhaps it is deeper than that, the acknowledgement of an ancient kinship belonging to human, dog, and wolf.

—KERRY CUDMORE



 taurus April 21- May 21 						
Venus			Fixed Sign of Earth			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	Apr. 21 <i>Touch an oak tree</i>	22  hare moon Scorpio	23 WANING	24 Sagittarius	25 <i>Try before you trust</i>	26 <i>Take no risks</i>
27 <i>Carry a talisman</i> Capricorn	28	29  Aquarius	30 Beltane Eve	May 1 ROODMAS Pisces	2 <i>Drift with the tide</i>	3 <i>Pay a debt</i> Aries
4 <i>Seek the comet in the west</i> Taurus	5 <i>Delay decision</i>	6  WAXING Gemini	7 White Lotus Day	8 Lemuria	9 Cancer	10
11 <i>Never give up</i>	12 <i>Yogi Berra born, 1925</i> Leo	13	14  Virgo	15 <i>Solve a puzzle</i>	16 Libra	17 <i>Observe clouds</i>
18 <i>Margot Fonteyn born, 1919</i>	19	20 <i>Waste not, want not</i> Scorpio	21			



The Unicorn and the Maiden

Unicornis the Unicorn, which is also called Rhinoceros by the Greeks, is of the following nature. He is a very small animal like a kid, excessively swift, with one horn in the middle of his forehead, and no hunter can catch him. But he can be trapped by the following stratagem.

A virgin girl is led to where he lurks, and there she is sent off by herself into the wood. He soon leaps into her lap when he sees her, and embraces her, and hence he gets caught.

From a Latin *Bestiary*, 12th century.



II

gemini

May 22- June 21

Mercury

Mutable Sign of Air



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				May 22 dyad moon Sagittarius	23 WANING	24 Ease anxiety with music Capricorn
25 Walk in the woods Aquarius	26	27 Consider another plan	28 Pisces	29 Oak Apple Day	30 Aries	31 Brooke Shields born, 1965
June 1	2 Avoid a pitfall Taurus	3	4 Night of the Watchers Gemini	5	6 WAXING Cancer	7 Rejoice in the Sun
8 Leave nothing to chance Leo	9	10 Make a daring move	11 Virgo	12	13 William Butler Yeats born, 1865 Libra	14 Keep a cool head
15	16 Stop, look, and listen Scorpio	17 Confidence pays dividends	18 Sagittarius	19 Draw down the Moon	20 mead moon	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE Capricorn



A Gift of Music

Music produces a kind of pleasure
which human nature
cannot do without.

—CONFUCIUS

Without music life
would be a mistake.

—NIETZSCHE

Music is the poetry of the air.

—JEAN PAUL RICHTER

Music alone with sudden charms
can bind the wand'ring sense,
and calm the troubled mind.

—WILLIAM CONGREVE

Music is the only sensual pleasure
without vice.

—SAMUEL JOHNSON

Music, the greatest good that
mortals know, and all
of heaven we have here below.

—JOSEPH ADDISON

Where there's music,
there can be no evil.

—CERVANTES

When I hear music I fear no
danger, I am invulnerable.
I see no foe, I am related to the
earliest times, and to the latest.

—THOREAU

Music is, by it's very nature,
essentially powerless
to express anything at all.
Music expresses itself.

—IGOR STRAVINSKY

After silence, that which
comes nearest to expressing
the inexpressible is music.

—ALDOUS HUXLEY

Music has charms to soothe
a savage breast, to soften rocks,
or bend a knotted oak.

—WILLIAM CONGREVE

Music is the thing of the world
that I love most.

—SAMUEL PEPYS

Music heard so deeply
That it is not heard at all,
But you are the music
While the music lasts.

—T. S. ELIOT



cancer

June 22- July 23

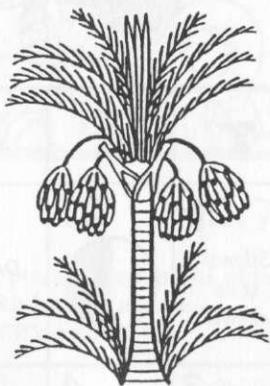


Moon

Cardinal Sign of Water

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
June 22	23 <i>Greet the sunrise</i> Aquarius	24 Midsummer Day St. John's Day	25 Pisces	26 <i>Silence is an answer</i>	27  Aries	28 <i>Dream and remember</i>
29 <i>Enjoy solitude</i> Taurus	30	July 1 <i>Deborah Harry born, 1945</i> Gemini	2 <i>Count the cost</i>	3 <i>Bide your time</i> Cancer	4 	5 WAXING Aries
6 <i>A dream comes true</i> Leo	7 <i>Renew psychic force</i>	8 Virgo	9	10 <i>Marcel Proust born, 1871</i>	11 Libra	12 
13 Scorpio	14 <i>Resist a negative notion</i>	15	16 <i>A red wind blows</i> Sagittarius	17 <i>Plow a straight furrow</i>	18 Capricorn	19 
20 WANING Aquarius	21 <i>Reap wild herbs</i>	22 Pisces	23 <i>Delay all decisions</i>			

Diana and the Date Palm Tree



In ancient days when the Amazons, a mythic race of women warriors, ruled in Asia Minor, a meteorite fell from outer space and struck a date palm tree. The tree became an object of worship, for the Amazons believed the spirit of their goddess had come to reside there.

After the Greeks had defeated the Amazons, occupied their territory, and founded the city of Ephesus, somehow the site of the date palm retained its sacred nature. There the Greeks built a shrine to honor the goddess, for they identified the Amazonian deity with their own Artemis, virgin goddess of the hunt. Centuries passed and the simple shrine evolved into a mighty temple considered the most impressive of the Seven Wonders of the World. Under Roman rule, Ephesus became one of the largest cities of the ancient world and Artemis, its patron goddess, came to be known by her Roman name, Diana.

As the Christian sect arose, St. Paul's missionary efforts were thwarted in Ephesus and the New Testament

records his encounter with the local silversmiths. The apostle's preaching threatened their livelihood—making silver replicas of Diana's statue for sale to the thousands of pilgrims who came to honor her. Paul was soundly defeated on this occasion and forced to flee the city. Future historians would take cruel revenge.

The graceful figure of a "huntress, chaste and fair," protectress of youth and wild creatures, was and is to the present day denounced as an erotic monster, a demon fertility goddess of Asiatic origin. St. Jerome (c. 340 - 420) may have been the first of many to declare Diana was *multimammia*, having many breasts. He was mistaken. Compare the date palm tree with the statue of Diana. It is clear that the "breasts" are a decoration of fruit—a memory, if you will, of the original tree that inspired the sculptor's figure.



leo

July 24- August 23

Sun

Fixed Sign of Fire



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				July 24 <i>Charm away danger</i> Aries	25	26  Taurus
27 <i>Criss-cross, thy loss</i>	28 <i>Wait till the tide turns</i> Gemini	29	30 <i>Emily Brontë born, 1818</i>	31 Lughnassad Eve Cancer	Aug. 1 LAMMAS	2 <i>Make no judgment</i> Leo
3 	4 WAXING	5 <i>Put care to rest</i> Virgo	6 <i>Pleasant surprise today</i>	7 Libra	8 <i>Honor overtakes goodness</i>	9 <i>Slay a dragon</i> Scorpio
10 <i>Share an adventure</i>	11 	12 <i>Hail the silver moon</i> Sagittarius	13 Diana's Day	14 Capricorn	15 <i>Never seek, always find</i>	16 Aquarius
17 <i>Expect an early autumn</i>	18  Pisces	19 WANING	20 <i>H. P. Lovecraft born, 1890</i> Aries	21	22 Taurus	23 <i>Collect fallen feathers</i>



GRAPE AND GRAIN



The Greeks at the height of classical culture honored two divinities at Eleusis—Demeter, goddess of grain, and Dionysos, god of wine. The worship was known as the Eleusinian Mysteries, a most sacred and secret form of spiritual expression, and was said to exalt human perception to a higher degree of reality. Whatever the secrets imparted at Eleusis (and their disclosure was punishable by death), they were obviously potent. The somber themes evident in the myths of Demeter and Dionysos are of loss, grief and death. But rebirth transfigures all. The melancholy symbols of harvest—a field stripped of grain and the grapevine pruned and dormant can return in spring to full glory. The theory of Eternal Return was a deep source of comfort to the ancients, according to Mircea Eliade in *Cosmos and History*. This cyclical view contrasts with the modern perception of linear time in forward progress.

Sometimes it is wise to deal with such profound matters by treating them a little lightly. Joy appears with the harvest and remarkable transformations take place. Grain turns into loaves of bread. Grapes provide wine and juicy, delectable food. Sweet grapes dried in the sun become raisins. And although the sensible drinker avoids mixing grape and grain, wine and li-

quor, the two blend beautifully as victuals. Consider old-fashioned bread pudding. The following recipe has been used by three generations of Connecticut witches.

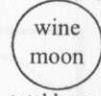
Mother's Bread Pudding

2 cups bread (I don't use the crust. I pull it apart into small pieces.) Dry bread (white)—if you have it—or fresh bread

4 cups milk, scalded (1 quart)
1 tbsp. butter
1/4 tsp. salt
3/4 cup sugar
4 slightly beaten eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract

1/2 cup raisins (I soak them in hot water for a few minutes and drain)

Soak bread in scalded milk for 5 minutes—or a little longer. Add butter, salt and sugar. Pour slowly over eggs. (I use a soup ladle to prevent splashing!) Add vanilla and raisins and mix well. Pour into a greased (with butter) baking dish. Add another scant 1/2 cup raisins if desired. I desire! Sprinkle them on the pudding, then shake some cinnamon and sugar mixture over all. Place dish in pan of hot water and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees) until firm, about 50 minutes. Pudding is done when silver knife comes out clean.

 virgo August 24—September 23						
Mercury			Mutable Sign of Earth			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Aug. 24 	25 <i>Define your limits</i> Gemini	26	27 <i>Find Jupiter at midnight</i> Cancer	28	29 Day of Thoth Leo	30 <i>Wish on a star</i>
31 <i>The best is yet to come</i>	Sept. 1  Virgo	2 WAXING	3 Libra	4 <i>Drop a token in the well</i>	5	6 <i>Discover a treasure</i> Scorpio
7 <i>Change a habit</i>	8 <i>Make a new friend</i> Sagittarius	9 	10	11 <i>D. H. Lawrence born, 1885</i> Capricorn	12 <i>Fill an empty space</i>	13 Aquarius
14	15 <i>Fulfill a promise</i> Pisces	16  total lunar eclipse	17 WANING Aries	18 <i>Because of greed</i>	19 Taurus	20 <i>Sophia Loren born, 1934</i>
21 <i>Gather five stones</i> Gemini	22 Autumnal Equinox	23  Cancer				

SOUL AND SPIRIT

Suppose you were given the task of pictorially defining an abstract idea—a concept existing in a mysterious manner deep within the human psyche. Skilled in the art of illustration, the ancient Egyptians, succeeded so well that the images symbolizing the soul and the spirit were used throughout the culture's 3,000 year history—from the Old Kingdom to the Ptolemies.



Ba, the soul, is a human-headed bird, depicting the belief that the mind takes wings and separates itself from the body at death—a reversal of the god-form Horus, expressed by a human body with the head of a hawk. The Ba represents the most noble, most sublime quality possessed by an individual, the perfect self.

The drawing above from the *Papyrus of Ani* depicts the soul of the scribe Ani visiting his mummified body as it lies on its bier. In *Egyptian Magic*, E.A. Wallis Budge, long curator of antiquities at the British Museum, suggests that the picture expresses the

reunion of the soul with the body. The Ba carries in its talons the *shen*, an amulet signifying eternity, the power to endure as long as the sun revolves in its heavenly orbit.

Ka, the spirit, is symbolized by a gesture of two arms extending upward, as shown in the illustration below. When you raise your arms in this manner, you experience an immediate refreshing sensation. Did an Egyptian artist working in the First Dynasty, baffled by the problem of depicting an abstract life force, resort to throwing up his arms in despair? Was he rewarded with renewed vitality? The Ka is the animating factor essential to existence along with the individual characteristics belonging to spirit alone.



libra

September 24-October 23



Venus

Cardinal Sign of Air

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Sept 24 <i>Discretion above all</i>	25 Leo	26 <i>Consult the tarot</i>	27
28 <i>Avoid a battle</i> Virgo	29	30 <i>Wear an amulet</i>	Oct. 1 ● Libra	2 WAXING	3 <i>Eleanora Duse born, 1859</i> Scorpio	4 <i>Buster Keaton born, 1896</i>
5 <i>Saturn in the south</i>	6 Sagittarius	7 <i>Buy an illusion</i>	8 <i>Clinch a deal</i> Capricorn	9 ◐	10 Aquarius	11 <i>Defeat an enemy</i>
12 <i>Open a new door</i> Pisces	13 <i>Abide by the rules</i>	14 Aries	15 ◉ blood moon	16 WANING Gallus Day Taurus	17 <i>Allow for change</i>	18 <i>Heed a warning</i> Gemini
19	20 <i>The channel clears</i>	21 Cancer	22 ◑	23 <i>Venus at midnight</i> Leo		



The Dancing Deaths.

Nuremberg, 1493.

DANSE MACABRE

Zig, ziz, zig, death in grim cadence
 Strikes with bony heel upon the tomb.
 Death at midnight hour plays a dance.
 Zig, ziz, zig upon his violin.
 The winter winds blow, the night is dark,
 Moans are heard through the linden trees.
 Through the gloom the white skeletons run,
 Leaping and dancing in their shrouds.
 Zig, ziz, zig, each one is gay.
 Their bones are cracking in rhythmic time,
 Then suddenly they cease the dance.
 The cock has crowed! The dawn has come.

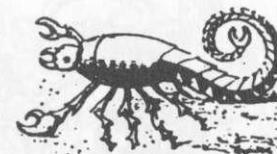
—HENRI CAZALIS (1840-1909)

The poem recounts an old medieval legend of the dance of the skeletons, and inspired French composer Camille Saint-Saëns to write his symphonic poem, *Danse Macabre*. Twelve strokes of the harp announce midnight. Death tunes his fiddle. The dance begins with the rattling of skeleton's bones, provided by the xylophone to the eerie accompaniment of violins. A waltz version of the *Dies Irae*, or old Latin Hymn for the Dead, becomes increasingly wilder until the cock crows, in the voice of the oboe, heralding dawn. The ghostly revelers must return to their tombs.



scorpio

October 24-November 22



Pluto

Fixed Sign of Water

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					Oct. 24 Summon the winds	25 Virgo
26 Daylight Saving Ends 2 AM	27	28 Now is the time Libra	29	30 Call the corners Scorpio	31 ● Samhain Eve	Nov. 1 HALLOW- MAS WAXING
2 K. D. Lang born, 1961 Sagittarius	3 Love burns brightly Capricorn	4	5 A sweet surprise Aquarius	6	7 ◐	8 Sing before breakfast
9 Blessed day Pisces	10	11 Ease fear Aries	12	13 Yours is the power Taurus	14 ○ snow moon	15 WANING
16 HECATE NIGHT	17 Israel Regardie born, 1907 Cancer	18	19 Light a candle in memory of Theo Leo	20	21 ◑	22 Judge not Virgo



THREATENING DEMONS

It was a wise man who said, "Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate." With that insight in mind, we've assembled a variety of means designed to protect you and your home from the psychic attacks of ill-wishers. The doorway by which you enter and leave your abode requires primary attention. There follow suggestions culled from many cultures past and present:

Archaic Greeks used the art of a Medusa head on and above doors and gates to terrify intruders. Medusa, in mythological tradition was one of the three Gorgons, and her gaze turned an onlooker to stone. Originally she was depicted as fearsome and ugly. The later Greek conception assumed a stern, grand beauty, although her hair was interlaced with serpents winding in knots beneath her chin. Romans adopted the device and carried the custom to Britain, where stone carvings of a woman's head were placed above the doorway to ward off demons. Grotesque door-knockers served the same purpose, with those made of iron considered the most effective guardians. Iron itself was thought to deter those with evil intent.

Carved motifs on wooden doors protect the home in Africa, with lizards and abstract patterns intended to frighten and confuse a hostile spirit. The Hebrew word *mezuzah* means "doorpost," and refers to a small case containing a protective religious text affixed to the door frame. Moslems protect their homes with verses from the Koran inscribed in Arabic on a panel above the door.

A branch of rowan, a packet of dill weed or a sprig of rue are simple and powerful means of portal protection. A pomander scented with myrrh is favored by many in the craft.

The window, from an old Norse word meaning "wind eye," is another likely point of entry for hostile forces. One of the oldest of protective amulets is the witch ball. A colored glass sphere suspended in front of a window was a time-honored safeguard against the Evil Eye in Britain. The attractive globes were sometimes mirrored, sometimes filled with a maze of colored threads, and would become in time triumphs of the glassblower's art with their swirls of brilliant hue. The



purpose of the witch ball was to distract, confuse, and thereby deflect the impact of evil wishes. During the last century, antique shops here and abroad offered witch balls as decorative oddities, their original significance long forgotten.

						
 sagittarius November 23-December 21						
Jupiter			Mutable Sign of Fire			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Nov. 23 <i>See no evil</i>	24 Libra	25 <i>Greet a new arrival</i>	26 <i>Let chance guide you</i>	27 Scorpio	28 <i>Spend a shining hour</i>	29 Sagittarius
30 WAXING	Dec. 1 <i>Seek a vision</i> Capricorn	2	3 <i>Renew an old promise</i>	4 Aquarius <i>Extend your senses</i>	5 <i>Plan a journey</i>	6 <i>Agnes Moorehead born, 1906</i> Pisces
7 	8 <i>James Thurber born, 1894</i> Aries	9	10 <i>Nature is never precise</i> Taurus	11	12 <i>An ill wind blows</i> Gemini	13 
14 WANING Cancer	15 <i>Halcyon Days</i>	16 <i>Your character is your fate</i>	17 Saturnalia Leo	18 <i>Greed kills</i>	19 Virgo	20 Eve of Yule
21  Libra	WINTER SOLSTICE 					



The Song of Amergin

In what may be an example of Western Europe's earliest literature, the chief poet of the invading Celts set his right foot first on the shore of Ireland and greeted the land. His extraordinary incantation proclaims a mystic identification with all things.

No one can say precisely when the Celts arrived in Ireland—estimates range from 2000 to 350 B. C. But thanks to scholarly monks who relied on a strong oral tradition and later produced *The Book of Invasions*, details of Irish origins are known to us.

The spelling of the poet's name, Amergin (Amorgen, Amairgein, Amhairghin, Amorgein, Amairgin) varies from source to source, but his words have lived down through the centuries.

I am a wind on the sea,
I am a wave of the ocean,
I am the roar of the sea,
I am a powerful ox,
I am a hawk on a cliff,
I am a dewdrop in the sunshine,
I am a boar for valor,

I am a salmon in pools,
I am a lake in a plain,
I am the strength of art,
I am a spear with spoils that wages battle,
I am a man that shapes fire for a head.

Who clears the stone-place of the mountain?
What the place in which the setting of the sun lies?
Who has sought peace without fear seven times?
Who names the waterfalls?
Who brings his cattle from the house of Tethra?
What person, what god,
Forms weapons in a fort?
In a fort that nourishes satirists.
Chants a petition, divides the Ogam letters,
Separates a fleet, has sung praises?
A wise satirist.

From *Leabhar Gabhala: The Book of Invasions*. Translated by R. A. Stewart Macalister and John MacNeill (Dublin, Ireland 1916.)



capricorn

December 22- January 20

Saturn

Cardinal Sign of Earth



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	Dec. 22 <i>Hail to the Sun</i>	23	24 <i>Consider the peril Scorpio</i>	25 <i>Hold your peace</i>	26 <i>Henry Miller born, 1891</i>	27 Sagittarius
28 <i>Glory in the still point</i>	29 Capricorn	30 WAXING	31 <i>Heed the pipes Aquarius</i>	Jan. 1 1998	2 Pisces	3 <i>Find the crescent</i>
4 Aries	5	6 <i>Travel a new route</i>	7 Taurus	8 <i>Leave all to chance</i>	9 Feast of Janus Gemini	10 <i>Suffer fools gladly</i>
11 <i>Hear the wind's song</i> Cancer	12 wolf moon	13 WANING Leo	14 <i>Faye Dunaway born, 1941</i>	15 Virgo	16 <i>Ride out the storm</i>	17 <i>Delay till twilight</i>
18 Libra	19 <i>Find a hidden message</i>	20 Scorpio				



Venice, 1491.

Juno and the Peacock

THE PEACOCK made complaint to Juno that, while the nightingale pleased every ear with his song, he no sooner opened his mouth than he became the laughing-stock of all who heard him. The Goddess, to console him, said, "But you far excel in beauty and size. The splendor of the emerald shines in your neck, and you unfold a tail gorgeous with painted plumage." "But for what purpose have I," said the bird, "this dumb beauty so long as I am surpassed in song?" "The lot of each," replied Juno, "has been assigned by the will of the Fates—to thee, beauty; to the eagle, strength; to the nightingale, song; to the raven, favorable, and to the crow, unfavorable, auguries. These are all contented with the endowments allotted to them."

MORAL: Be content with your lot;
one cannot be first in everything.

From AÆSOP'S FABLES. Literally translated from the Greek by George Fyler Townsend, Belford, Clarke & Co., Chicago, 1882.



aquarius

January 21-February 19

Uranus

Fixed Sign of Air



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			Jan. 21 <i>A lucky day for all</i>	22	23 <i>Conceal, never reveal</i> Sagittarius	24
25 <i>Bide your time</i> Capricorn	26	27 <i>Anoint sacred candle</i>	28 Chinese Year of the Tiger Aquarius	29 WAXING	30 Pisces	31 <i>Smile witch, laugh, witch</i>
Feb. 1 Oimelc Eve Aries	2 CANDLE-MAS	3  Taurus	4 <i>Lighten your burden</i>	5 Gemini	6 <i>Put your house in order</i>	7 <i>Obey a whim</i> Cancer
8 <i>Need not who needs not thee</i> Leo	9	10 <i>Spend time alone</i>	11  storm moon	12 WANING Virgo	13 <i>Wear an amulet</i>	14 <i>Least said, easiest mended</i> Libra
15 <i>Claire Bloom born, 1931</i>	16 <i>Follow an old rule</i>	17 Scorpio	18 <i>John Travolta born, 1954</i>	19 		

THE ASH TREE

Nion—February 18 to March 17

Like the birch and the rowan, the ash tree thrives high up on exposed hills. The tree is easily recognized by its pure grey bark and large, spreading crown especially after its leaves have fallen. The ash comes to leaf as late as May and loses its leaves by the beginning of October.

The Greeks dedicated the ash tree to Poseidon, god of the sea, and sailors carried its wood as protection against the threat of drowning. The major spiritual significance of the ash tree comes from Northern Europe, where as *Yggdrasil*, the World Tree, it connects the underworld, earth and heaven. The ash is associated in Norse

myths with Odin (Woden), supreme among gods, who sought to increase his wisdom with extreme suffering. It was on an ash tree that he hanged himself:

*Nine whole nights on
a wind-rocked tree,
Wounded with a spear.
I was offered to Odin, myself
to myself,
On that tree that none
may ever know
What root beneath it runs.*

This account is recorded in the *Elder Edda*, Icelandic poems dating from about the 10th century.

Ash keys, so-called because they resemble keys used in medieval locks, are the winged seed pods dispersed by winter winds to form new trees. They are of value as fertility charms. Ash is one of the few woods that will burn easily and steadily when still green. Divination fires are often of green ash.

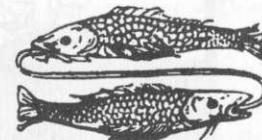


The Norns, mistresses of fate, tend the World Ash Tree — *Yggdrasil*.



pisces

February 20-March 20



Neptune

Mutable Sign of Water

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					Feb. 20 Cindy Crawford born, 1966	21 Silence is golden
22 George Washington born, 1732 Capricorn	23 Buy without bargaining	24 Aquarius	25 Choose the right key	26 total solar eclipse Pisces	27 WAXING	28 Adventure awaits Aries
Mar. 1 Matronalia Taurus	2	3 Joy is all around	4 Gemini	5 partial lunar eclipse	6 Time for daring Cancer	7 To the pure, all is pure
8 Live your own life Leo	9 The journey is all	10	11 Honor the Goddess Virgo	12 chaste moon partial lunar eclipse	13 WANING	14 Time for caring Libra
15 Bless your creatures Scorpio	16	17	18 Feel the green wind	19 Sagittarius	20 The wild birds sing	



Dreamland

Marianne Hitschmann-Steinberger, Vienna, 1908.

To Sleep is to Dream

Everybody in this world dreams, and some researchers have suggested that as much as seven years of the average seventy-year life is spent in the dream state. The reason why some people think they never dream is easily understood when we learn something about the process of sleep.

Experiments in the 1950's established the existence of what was termed REM (Rapid Eye Movement), the discovery that for a portion of our sleep the eyes move under the lids as though the sleeper is watching moving figures. During this period the flow of blood to the brain is increased. Sleep-

ers awoken during the REM period remembered vivid dreams; very few could remember their dreams if woken at other times.

About one hour after first going to sleep, we enter ten minutes or so of REM sleep; this cycle is repeated about four times during the night with the REM periods getting longer—perhaps up to an hour of REM sleep just before we wake. Experiments have shown that when people are tortured by sleep deprivation it is actually “dream deprivation” from which they are suffering because the body can do better without sleep than the mind can do without

dreams. When deprived of REM sleep, people start to hallucinate while they are awake.

From the earliest times, dreams have been transcribed and interpreted in such works as the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the *Iliad*, and the Bible. About 350 B.C. Taoists suggested that life itself was a dream, but it was the Egyptians who devised the “dream incubation” system under which people would sleep in a temple and have their dreams interpreted by a priest. As early as the 12th dynasty (c. 1991-1786 B.C.) they recorded a book about dream symbols. The Greeks also followed this sleep healing idea with the major oracle of Asclepius at Epidaurus. In the 5th century B.C. Heraclitus suggested that a person's dream world was peculiar to them and maybe nothing to do with the gods or anything else. Aristotle later amplified this with his notion that dreams were not warnings from the gods, suggesting instead that dreams were connected to the physical senses and that physicians might use them as indicators of potential ailments, an idea supported by Hippocrates. The Roman writer Artemidorus produced a five-volume work, *Oneirocriticon* (*The Interpretation of Dreams*) in the 2nd century A.D. After Gutenberg's movable type in the mid-15th century made printing cheaper and thus no longer the property of the elite or the Church, dream books proliferated, many of them based on the *Oneirocriticon*.

“It may be that dreams do their work whether we strive to understand them or not,” says the husband and wife team of Derek and Julia Parker

whose *The Complete Book of Dreams* (Dorling Kindersley, 1995) is one of the best. Dreams can make you aware of fears, desires, feelings, and attitudes that you have never acknowledged or have preferred to ignore. Many people shy away from expressing their emotions or even acknowledging their existence. Only repressed emotions are potentially dangerous. “If you get acquainted with what is going on in your unconscious,” advises Eric Ackroyd in *A Dictionary of Dream Symbols* (Blanford, 1993), “you will begin to take better control of your life . . . because you are now using creatively the psychic energy that was previously going to waste.” And Nerys Dee, *Discover Dreams* (The Aquarian Press, 1990), adds, “Dreams reflect and draw attention to many things in life we have failed to notice when awake—they point out our faults honestly, alert us of danger, admonish us for our bad behavior and reactions, caution us about our ill health and present us with visions of the future.”

According to Thomas Hobbes' book *Leviathan* published in 1651, “Dreams are caused by distemper of some inwards parts of the body.” Some are indubitably the result of physical discomfort, and Montague Ullman and Nan Zimmerman in *Working with Dreams* (Jeremy Tarcher, 1979) suggest that all dreams due to a physical



cause (i.e. nightmares) can be discarded as impossible happenings. Nightmares are “severe anxiety dreams” with issues too overwhelming to be contained while asleep, so awakening occurs. They recount the tale of one man who kept leaning on his false teeth which had slipped into his bed thereby prompting dreams of being chased by a wild animal that kept biting him. All “impossible” dreams should be traced to some physical cause and considered seriously only when there seems to be no other explanation. Improbable events fall into the category of visions and should be investigated. Repetitive dreams, however, deal with “emotional residues from our past that we haven’t quite disposed of,” showing where we are in relation to the problem.

Many writers agree that the best way to remember dreams is to tell yourself in advance that you are going to. Then immediately on waking turn inwards, lie in a passive state for a moment or two trying to stay “inside the atmosphere of the dream,” minimize movement, avoid distraction, and try to recall the first thing that came to mind on waking. Make notes, either on paper or into a tape recorder; just a few words about the dream—a name, a situation, an event. Some psychologists suggest that giving the dream a title will help you focus on its most important image. Nerys Dee stresses the importance of keeping dream diaries and quotes Edgar Cayce’s son Hugh Linn who said that the most informative book you will ever read on dreams is the one you write yourself.

It was Sigmund Freud’s 1899 *Interpretation of Dreams* that offered us



our first window into the unconscious. Both Freud (1856-1939) and Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) theorized about dreams but disagreed over the former’s belief that hidden sexual problems were at the root of most dreams. Jung suggested that dreams were “important messages from ourselves to ourselves” and were meant to be understood. They differed in their importance, he emphasized, with some being remembered for a lifetime. Freud declared that the interpretation of dreams is “the royal road to knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind.” In dreams, he suggested, your id (instincts and desires) tries to communicate with your ego (the conscious part of yourself). When you are asleep, your ego goes off duty and offers less resistance to your id. However, the super ego remains on duty and exerts a sort of moral conscience to censor the message. Freud distinguished between the manifest content of a dream—the actual dream—and the latent content or message which usually has to be decoded. “Your dreams are messages from your unconscious.”

Freud suggested interpreting dreams by “association,” i.e. breaking down the ingredients and mentioning the first thing you associate with it. Sooner or later you will hit on some-

thing that rings a bell, and you may find that the more you resist making a particular association the more significant it might be. Freud believed that sometimes the symbols in a dream concealed the dream’s message, keeping it from the dreamer’s conscious attention. Jung felt that it was “the role of symbols to give a meaning to the life of man.” “The unconscious is nature,” he declared, “and nature never lies.”

Colors, numbers, names, puns, or movement in different directions can be significant as well as people, places, and animals. Colors and detail especially are more vivid in lucid dreams than when awake. “Nothing in a dream is trivial. Every detail, no matter how potentially insignificant it may seem, has to be taken into account . . . there is no dream trash. We should never junk a symbol just because we don’t understand its value,” explain Ullman and Zimmerman. “Dreams are useful in therapy because they tell the truth about the dreamer. Confronting the truth about oneself and accepting it without being defensive about it or frightened by it is the essence of psychological healing.”

The Parkers write that the works of Dali, Picasso, and other surrealist and abstract painters; poetry by Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot; and the novels of Gabriel García Márquez “all use symbolism in the way dreams use it.” Lewis Carroll’s Alice books, they add, are quintessentially dreamlike. Robert Louis Stevenson derived ideas for his stories from dreams, especially the classic *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Nerys Dee writes that the sewing machine, lead shot, ball bearings, canned food,

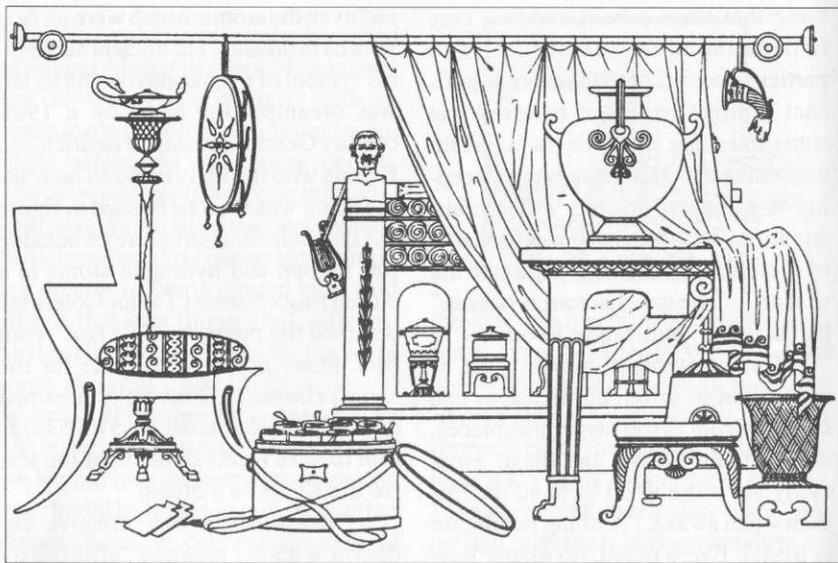
and even the atomic bomb were all first viewed in dreams. The ancient alchemical symbol of a snake devouring its tail was dreamed one night by a 19th-century German chemist, Friedrich von Kekule who instantly realized on waking that it was what he needed to figure out the molecular structure of benzene (the carbon and hydrogen atoms in a closed ring). Samuel Taylor Coleridge dreamed the poem *Kubla Khan*. Paul McCartney dreamed the tune for the song *Yesterday*. Stravinsky dreamed an octet. Mohammed (c. 570-632) is said to have received much of the text for the Koran in a dream.

Dreams are a very creative endeavor with the dreamer “effortlessly but creatively transforming something vaguely felt into a visual display which both captures and radiates the feelings involved. Everybody has the touch of the poet in him even if it only comes out in a dream,” say Ullman and Zimmerman. When we select an image from the limitless repertoire available and use it to convey a sense of what we are feeling and experiencing, “we engage in a highly creative act.”

Dream on.



Arthur Rackham



A Roman study

Thomas Hope, London, 1812.

MEMENTO ROMA

A modern dictionary of the English language demonstrates how many Latin words and phrases survive in their original form despite the passage of two thousand years.

ad hoc, to this purpose alone.

ad infinitum, to go on and on, limitless.

ad libitum, at pleasure. To speak spontaneously, or ad lib.

agenda, Things that have to be done.

alter ego, a second self; closest friend.

ante meridiem, before noon, or A.M.

bona fide, in good faith; without deceit.

caveat emptor, let the buyer beware.

circa, about. Often abbreviated to c. and used to qualify an uncertain date.

contra, against.

cum laude, with praise.

deus ex machina, a god from a ma-

chine. An allusion to the practice in classical drama of bringing on a god to solve superhuman difficulties.

et cetera, additional unspecified things; abbreviated to etc.

excelsior, ever upward; sustained aspiration.

exempli gratia, for the sake of example; e.g. in scholarly texts.

ex libris, from the library of; used for bookplates.

flagrante delicto, while the crime is blazing; caught in the act.

ibidem, from the same source; abbreviated to ibid. in reference notes.

id est, that is. The familiar i.e. meaning to explain in more detail.

in camera, in private.

in toto, on the whole, completely.

ipso facto, by the fact or the act itself.

magna cum laude, with great praise.

magnum opus, a great work; especially in literature.

mea culpa, my fault. I am to blame.

memento mori, remember that you must die.

modus operandi, manner of operating, M.O.

modus vivendi, manner of living; a temporary arrangement of affairs until disputed matters can be resolved.

nolo contendere, I do not wish to contend. A legal plea by which a defendant is subject to conviction, but does not admit guilt.

non compos mentis, not of sound mind.

non sequitur, it does not follow. A remark having nothing to do with the conversation taking place.

opere citato, in the work cited. Usually abbreviated to op. cit.

persona non grata, an unacceptable person.



post meridiem, after noon, or P.M.

post scriptum, written after, the familiar P.S.

recipe, to take. Rx in medical prescriptions stands for the great god Jove, patron of medicines.

sic transit gloria mundi, so passes away the glory of the world.

status quo, the state in which, or existing conditions.

sub rosa, under the rose. Harpocrates was the god of silence to whom Cupid gave a rose, the emblem of secrecy, and from this myth came the custom of

hanging a rose from the ceiling over the end of a table when a conversation was to be kept secret.

summa cum laude, with highest praise.

tempus fugit, time flies.

ultima Thule, utmost limit. Thule was the name given by the ancient Greeks to the northern-most part of the habitable world.

vade mecum, go with me; a useful guidebook that one carries about for ready reference.

vice versa, the order being changed; conversely.

I	1	XII	12	XC	90
II	2	XIII	13	C	100
III	3	XIV	14	CC	200
IV	4	XV	15	CCC	300
V	5	XX	20	CD	400
VI	6	XXX	30	D	500
VII	7	XL	40	DC	600
VIII	8	L	50	DCC	700
IX	9	LX	60	CCM	800
X	10	LXX	70	CM	900
XI	11	XXC	80	M	1000



presage

by Dikki-Jo Mullen

ARIES 1997 — PISCES 1998

*We seek unity and perfection within a world of paradox.
Bewildering yet sublime, there is a cauldron of plenty. It bubbles
out of the subconscious, pouring both from and into the world.
Life is renewed from its eternal source.*

Since the earliest times, people have observed the majestic drama of the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets. Celestial cycles provide a key to comfort and guide us. At this time of accelerated growth and potential, life can seem more complex and challenging than ever before. Heavenly portents help you to find the brightest and the best in the world around you and within yourself while avoiding the pitfalls. Astrology provides a map to help you chart the best course to follow. Remember that your life is what you make of it.

If you were born on the day of a sign change, you are on the cusp. Both

forecasts will apply. The year, time, and place of your birth checked by an astrologer will let you know which is actually your birth sign.

Your familiar birth sign is your Sun Sign. Calculated by looking at the Earth's path around the Sun on your day of birth, it describes your ego and sense of identity. Eventually you might want to learn the position in the zodiac of your Moon Sign and Ascendant. The forecast for your Moon Sign will offer insights into emotional and family life, while the Ascendant, or Rising Sign, shows how you function as part of the greater world around you.

ASTROLOGICAL KEYS

Signs of the Zodiac Channels of Expression

ARIES: pioneer, leader, competitor
 TAURUS: earthy, stable, practical
 GEMINI: dual, lively, versatile
 CANCER: protective, traditional
 LEO: dramatic, flamboyant, warm
 VIRGO: conscientious, analytical
 LIBRA: refined, fair, sociable
 SCORPIO: intense, secretive, ambitious
 SAGITTARIUS: friendly, expansive
 CAPRICORN: cautious, materialistic
 AQUARIUS: inquisitive, unpredictable
 PISCES: responsive, dependent, fanciful

Elements

FIRE: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius
 EARTH: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn
 AIR: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius
 WATER: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces

Qualities

CARDINAL	FIXED	MUTABLE
Aries	Taurus	Gemini
Cancer	Leo	Virgo
Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius
Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces

CARDINAL signs mark the beginning of each new season — active.

FIXED signs represent the season at its height — steadfast.

MUTABLE signs herald a change of season — variable.

The Houses — Twelve Areas of Life

1st house: appearance, image, identity
 2nd house: money, possessions, tools
 3rd house: communications, siblings
 4th house: family, domesticity, security
 5th house: romance, creativity, children
 6th house: daily routine, service, health

Celestial Bodies Generating Energy of the Cosmos

Sun: birth sign, ego, identity
 Moon: emotions, memories, personality
 Mercury: communication, intellect, skills
 Venus: love, pleasures, the fine arts
 Mars: energy, challenges, sports
 Jupiter: expansion, religion, happiness
 Saturn: responsibility, maturity, realities
 Uranus: originality, science, progress
 Neptune: dreams, illusions, inspiration
 Pluto: rebirth, renewal, resources

Glossary of Aspects

Conjunction: two planets within the same sign or less than 10 degrees apart, favorable or unfavorable according to the nature of the planets.

Sextile: a pleasant, harmonious aspect occurring when two planets are two signs or 60 degrees apart.

Square: a major negative effect resulting when planets are three signs from one another or 90 degrees apart.

Trine: planets four signs or 120 degrees apart, forming a positive and favorable influence.

Quincunx: a mildly negative aspect produced when planets are five signs or 150 degrees apart.

Opposition: a six sign or 180 degrees separation of planets generating positive or negative forces depending on the planets involved.

7th house: marriage, partnerships, union
 8th house: passion, death, rebirth, soul
 9th house: travel, philosophy, education
 10th house: fame, achievement, mastery
 11th house: goals, friends, high hopes
 12th house: sacrifice, solitude, privacy

ECLIPSES

If you do some Moon gazing the night of March 23 about 9 or 10 o'clock, EST, you will be able to see the beginning of the first eclipse of this new astrological year. Visible throughout the Americas (except Alaska and northwest Canada) and in Europe, the celestial drama will peak just before midnight. It will end when the Moon leaves the Earth's shadow on March 24 at about 2:30 AM, EST.

Eclipses occur at New and Full Moons when there is a close alignment of the Sun, Moon, and Earth. Since antiquity they have been the subject of inspiration as well as fear and awe. Modern astrologers interpret eclipses as turning points. They generate unusual weather and world conditions. The keyword for an eclipse is "change." Those with birthdays near an eclipse can expect a year of surprises.

March 23-24, 1997
 September 1
 September 16
 February 26, 1998
 March 12-13

Partial-Full Moon Lunar in Libra
 Partial-New Moon Solar in Virgo
 Total-Full Moon Lunar in Pisces
 Total-New Moon Solar in Pisces
 Partial-Full Moon Lunar in Virgo

RETROGRADES

Retrograde motion is the apparent backward movement of a planet as it journeys around the Sun. Although it is really an optical illusion from our vantage point on Earth, we do respond to it. Planets in retrograde motion encourage us to reflect and review, to stop and take another look. Life has a slower quality, projects ruled by the planet in question seem to need extra time and research. Although all of the retrogrades are important, those of the planets nearest to us (Mercury, Venus, and Mars) impact us the most.

Retrograde Venus

Venus retrograde tempts us to splurge on rich, calorie-laden foods or to overextend financially. Overlook little discrepancies in manners and grooming in others. Use caution in love: unrequited passions and love triangles can lead to unhappiness. Maintain a light, cordial attitude with new love interests for a few weeks before close involvement. Be dignified and elegant.

December 26, 1997 - February 5, 1998
in Aquarius and Capricorn

Retrograde Mercury

During retrograde Mercury verify appointments, double check work, and be cautious about making promises. Travel plans can go awry, and energy level may be lower. Be patient and get extra rest.

April 15 - May 8
in Taurus and Aries
 August 18 - September
in Virgo
 December 8-27
in Capricorn and Sagittarius

Retrograde Mars

Experiences involving athletes, the military, and police may be different than anticipated. Aggressive moves don't create the desired result. Repair faulty tools, machines, and electrical appliances. Eliminate fire and accident hazards. Competition may be tiring or seem futile. Explore alternative methods of problem solving. Be gentle.

Mars begins the year retrograde and turns direct April 27, 1997 in Virgo.

ARIES



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

Recall, revamp, reevaluate, revise, reverse, remember . . . almost any word prefaced with "re" describes the beginning of spring for you. Mars, your ruling planet, completes a long retrograde on April 27. Until then, it's best to reflect and reconsider. The March 24 eclipse may bring new ideas and goals to a partner. Be careful to follow all rules and regulations that week. Mercury moves rapidly through your birth sign from the equinox until All Fool's Day. This favors reading and planning and aids in solving an old problem.

April 2-19 the Sun moves along with Saturn in your birth sign. Perfect skills; enjoy your work. Pleasure and satisfaction come from a job well done. You will experience the value of patience. Slow and thorough are good watch words. The month closes with Venus and Mercury in your 2nd house. You will enjoy shopping for special purchases and will appreciate the well-being and confidence that material security can bring.

May 1-19 brings a grand trine in the earth signs with Neptune, Mars, and the Sun. Attend to security issues. Allow your intuition to guide your professional aspirations. May 20-31 your 3rd and 9th houses are strong. Wanderlust and restlessness develop. It's a good time for travel or even just an armchair tour of intriguing sites with travel books and videos.

June 1-20 several planets in air signs sextile your Sun. The New Moon in Gemini on the 5th reveals the potentials of this pattern. It's the ideal time to take the initiative with new friends and groups. Express

your thoughts and experiences through writing a poem or composing a tune. A new goal becomes important.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Summer Solstice through August 13, Mars races through your 7th house of partnerships. You could be swept along by the plans and desires of a dynamic individual. Be subtle when disagreeing with others to avoid conflict. Even mild mannered types can be a bit aggressive toward you under this pattern. June 24 - July 7 Mercury joins the Sun in your 4th house and creates a square. You will give thought to improving living arrangements. Redecorating, or even a move, may seem attractive. July 8-23 you'll feel a benevolent trine from Venus in your 5th house of romance. Your love is reciprocated, and leisure hours are enriched with cultural activities. Attend art shows, summer festivals and fairs, or go to the theater. Through the end of the month, health and vitality improve because Venus, Mercury, and the Moon's node all are in your 6th house.

August is very fiery. Saturn, the Sun, and Pluto form a grand trine in the fire signs. You are literally in your element through the 22nd. Routine tasks are accomplished with ease; others are responsive and more supportive. Life is smoother and easier. Use incense, candles, and decorative or antique lamps in magical workings. Consider a bonfire outdoors at the New Moon in Leo the night of August 3 to light in the early harvest. August 23-31 you will feel the quincunx of Mercury's retrograde with the Sun in Virgo. A pet needs extra love and attention. Be philosophical and keep a sense of humor if your work routine is hectic. The eclipse September 1 brings this pattern to a peak.

September 2-11 finds Venus and Saturn in opposition. Separate business from pleasure. An even balance of give and take maintains goodwill in relationships. The summer season ends with your 8th house strengthened. Past life recall and communion with the spirit world can be vivid and meaningful. Your skills at deduction and

detection are in top form. Research, gather data.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

From the autumnal equinox through September 30, you will feel a relief. Several large outer planets, including Saturn in your own birth sign, begin the new season in retrograde motion. It's time to postpone difficult tasks and lighten your work load. As October begins, Mercury crosses over the Libra cusp and moves to oppose you through the 19th. Others make suggestions and may examine your ideas critically. Look at both sides in any debate; mediation and compromise assure success. On October 15 the Moon is full in your sign. Your brilliance and talents will be in evidence, and you can win support. This marvelous cycle for new beginnings lasts through Halloween. You may recall a past life as an explorer or pioneer.

November 1-8 Mercury and the Sun in your 8th house add astuteness to your financial strategies. Examine employment and investment options. November 9-30 you'll feel restless. A journey could be refreshing and enlightening now. You would enjoy visiting a historical shrine or monument. December opens with four Capricorn planets squaring you from the 10th house. From December 1-13 be aware of patterns at work, and keep a sense of humor about office gossip. Verify instructions. Illusion and confusion abound.

December 13-21 Saturn grinds to a halt and turns direct in your sign. Old barriers are cleared away, and you can start to make serious progress. You will feel the urge to use time and resources wisely as the days shorten and darken.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

Just after Yule, Venus turns retrograde in Aquarius. She moves with Mars and Uranus in your 11th house until January 9. You will find your choices in friendships in flux. Avoid those who seem too possessive or overly demanding. Patiently cultivate new contacts—allow time for trust to build.

You may be intrigued by new gadgets and technologies. January 10-19 the Sun squares you from the 10th. Ambitions are strong; you'll feel the urge to be more visible at work. Avoid a conflict with authority. Even if you're right, a victory could generate resentment. The quarter Moon in Scorpio the week of January 20 allows you to resolve problems with grace and subtlety. On January 25 Mars moves into your 12th house, remaining there until March 4. You will find pleasure in helping those who are sad, troubled, or disadvantaged. Volunteer opportunities can help you grow spiritually, but you can also do a lot of good through performing small kindnesses where needed.



Allow yourself plenty of rest, and keep the cold at bay with hot chocolate or steaming herb teas. Health may need some minor attention during late January and February. The week following February 11's Full Moon is filled with love as the lunation makes a nice trine from your 5th house. You're more important to your valentine than you realize.

February 19-28 you may find that a nagging worry was just a false alarm. Create happiness and opportunity by developing a more positive attitude. The Sun joins Jupiter to brighten your 12th house. The first week of March begins a dynamic time, as Mars crosses the Pisces-Aries cusp. You feel competitive—enjoy sports and be an inspiration to others. The eclipse in Virgo late on March 12 brings changes to the work place. New faces appear and long-time associates are ready to move on. Be cautious with changes in health care and your fitness regime. Stay aware of how your body responds and all will be well.

TAURUS



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

Cherish secrets through April 1. Mercury moves with the Sun and Venus in your 12th house. Springtime begins with the need to dream and plan privately—others might not understand. On April 2 a grand trine in your own element earth is formed with Neptune, Mars, Mercury, and (after the 15th) Venus. Your intuition guides you successfully. You have the energy to complete more work, resulting in reward and praise. A friend can become a closer partner or romantic interest by the 30th.

The first week of May the New Moon in your sign helps you to focus your energy. With Mercury retrograde at the same time, an old puzzle is clarified. May 7-21 the Moon waxes and earthy signs are still strong. It is the ideal time to plant a garden, especially on the weekend of the 10th, or enjoy a camping trip, or explore a nature trail. May 22-31 your 2nd house is accented. You will find pleasure in shopping for new treasures. Add to your income, if needed, by pursuing extra employment opportunities. June 1-8 a Mercury and Mars trine aspects you favorably for travel. It's also a good week for writing, initiating discussions, and teaching; you're clever and perceptive now. June 9 through solstice eve Venus glides through your 3rd house in a graceful sextile aspect. A neighbor shows unexpected generosity. A relative becomes a good friend. Your cheerful attitude makes life a joy. If an opportunity for a short journey presents itself, don't hesitate to accept.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Health is a focus with Mars in your 6th house until August 12. Work into fitness programs gently. Release stress and make your work environment more wholesome. This isn't the time to adopt a new pet—it could be aggressive or hard to care for. As July begins, Venus moves into your 4th house. You can deal successfully in real estate now. Decorating and remodeling ideas will be a success this month too. Try adding fresh flowers in unusual old vases to dark corners or empty window sills.

Lammastide through August 17 Mercury and Venus move in harmonious trine aspect in your 5th house. A new hobby is educational and could lead to new friendships. If you make a romantic overture, it will be met with surprising enthusiasm. There could be an announcement about a child expected by a friend or relative. On August 18 the Full Moon in Pisces—Aquarius falls with Jupiter and Uranus in your 10th house. There could be a new direction to your career by the end of the month. You will attract extra attention, so take care to make the most of your appearance. Good manners will carry you a long way August 18-31.

September opens with an eclipse in your 5th house. A change of heart is inevitable; be progressive about love. A young person surprises you—be kind. Health and vitality improve September 1-11 with Venus moving through the 6th house. Mercury completes a retrograde on the 10th, ushering in a more dynamic pace. The second eclipse on the 16th shows adjustments in your social circle and new plans for the long-term future. Remember that to change is to grow.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

As the Sun enters your 6th house with the equinox, it trines first Uranus then Jupiter through October 5. Health takes a turn for the better. With your renewed vitality, career prospects brighten until you actually become something of a star at work. It's a perfect time to look for a new pet, espe-

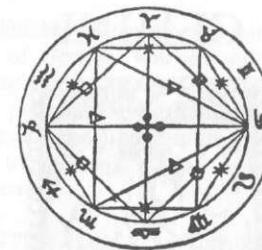
cially a cat. October 6-15 three Sagittarius planets create an awkward quincunx involving the 8th house. Use care in interpreting dreams and meditations; go slowly with contacts in the spirit world. Stay grounded. The Full Moon on the 15th brings this trend to a peak—humor and perspective help. The last half of October begins a period of activity in your 7th house. Other people make plans for you. Partnerships intensify. You will recognize the value in teamwork and enjoy camaraderie. The New Moon on All Hallows' Eve solidifies bonds.

November 1-4 Venus, your ruler, conjoins Mars. This favors returns from investments. You can deal successfully with insurance claims or estate planning. The Full Moon in Taurus on the 14th finds you decisive. You can realize a goal through sheer will power. From November 5-30, first Venus and Neptune then Mars will move in a trine through your 9th house. Alternative philosophies and spiritual practices can provide insight. You would enjoy attending a workshop or lecture on a metaphysical topic or browsing through your favorite book store. You'll be rather restless and might consider a journey to a foreign land.

As Saturnalia approaches with the beginning of December, the planet Saturn completes a long retrograde in your 12th house. You will become more comfortable with your own inner psyche. A positive mental attitude improves your quality of life December 1-16. Old regrets finally vanish. December 17-21 four Aquarius planets make a square aspect to you. Stick to your budget with holiday expenses. Enjoy merrymaking, but get enough rest. Eat small portions of rich and delicious delectables.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

As the sign of Capricorn begins, you will feel a spiritual awakening through dreams. December 22-25 finds the Sun at the beginning and Neptune at the end of your 9th house of the higher mind. This generates a visionary energy, suggesting meaningful meditations as well as dreams. At the end



of the month your ruling planet Venus turns retrograde, a trend which will be in force through February 5. Separate your personal feelings from professional duties. It's best not to reveal details about your personal life too quickly. Use humor and patience with others and postpone romantic entanglements. From January 1-13 a Mercury-Saturn aspect helps you to do research work. Gathering background data can be the key to completing a project or presenting an idea with aplomb. Control anger from January 14-24. Mars is strong and can create extra stress. Steer clear of competition. Neptune changes signs the last week of January, joining three other Aquarius placements to create a stellium in your 10th house. There is an unpredictable mood at work—prepare for adjustments.

Candlemas week opens with Mars and Pluto in aspect. Your 8th and 11th houses will feel this February 1-7. You will be swept along by strong likes and dislikes. It's a powerful and passionate trend. Develop constructive desires. February 8-28 Jupiter joins the pattern as it moves through Pisces and your 11th house. Friends will help you to select the right priorities. You will sense more support and approval from others.

March 1-7 Mercury makes a sextile aspect. This adds eloquence to your communication. It's easy to sell your ideas to others. Writing and any public speaking will be a success. A business trip is fruitful. The lunar eclipse in Virgo late on March 12 sets the pace for the rest of the winter season. It promises a creative cycle. Color and music will delight you. This would be a perfect time to attend the opera, a concert, or focus on an art project. Changes of heart and new loves are promised.

GEMINI



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

You are possessed by an urge to reform and crusade as the season begins. Mars creates a powerful square to your Sun which lends you a fearless quality through June 18. Maintain perspective: don't let confrontations accelerate and much will be accomplished. March 20 - April 1 Mercury moves with Saturn and the Sun in a cordial 11th house aspect. Friends are supportive. Ask for advice and favors. You will be pleasantly surprised, receiving more than expected. The eclipse of March 23 highlights your 5th house, showing love, admiration, and new recreational pursuits available. During the first half of April a positive Venus allows the good times to continue. Express creative and artistic talents April 1-14.

Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde in your 12th house during the last two weeks of April. You'll enjoy nostalgia and be surprised by the reappearance of an old friend. Be only as generous as you can afford to be. It's easy to be overly sympathetic and charitable. Be patient if it's hard to express your deepest thoughts and feelings. Your usual eloquence returns after May 7. May 11 - June 3 Venus moves through your own birth sign. This creates a favorable atmosphere. You're at your most attractive and charming. It's a good time to deal with the public and to experiment with new fashions. Birthday festivities are especially happy at the end of May and early June. The New Moon in Gemini on June 5 is beautifully aspected to Saturn. This ushers in a two-week cycle when older people

and established values help you. You can establish greater security and will make the best use of time and other resources. June 9 through the summer solstice Mercury is strong. You could find yourself packing a suitcase to enjoy an impromptu journey or writing a poem.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Your 2nd house is strong June 21-30. It's a time to pursue new sources of income. You will revel in creature comforts such as gourmet food, silk garments, or a fragrant bath. The extra money you can earn allows you to splurge. A friend gives valuable financial advice. Mars is in a trine to Jupiter and Uranus in your sister air signs of Libra and Aquarius throughout July. You will have higher energy and will be clever about using new technology. Travel and study are favored July 8-26 while Mercury in Leo sextiles both your Sun and Mars.

August begins with more focus on home and your heritage. Venus and Mercury both move into your 4th house and square your Sun. You may delve into your ancestry or visit relatives. Lammastide is a marvelous time to make decisions about residence. A real estate transaction could be finalized July 27 - August 17. The Full Moon in your 9th house on August 18 shifts the focus. Spiritual pursuits and events in faraway places hold your attention that week. The last days of August through September 10 retrograde Mercury squares your Sun. You may feel distracted; concentrate on the true priorities. Listen carefully to family discussions. Words have hidden nuances which can guide you in dealing with those you love most.

The eclipse on September 1 conjoins Mercury and makes communication difficult. Humor and an insistence on clarity help. The second eclipse on September 16 affects your 10th house. An old phase of your career could come to a close. Be adventurous and flexible. The working environment is stimulating. Your image and reputation help you achieve a goal. Take special care with grooming and appearance through the equinox.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

With the beauty of fall colors and the stirring excitement of harvest season, you will enjoy a renewed vitality. Venus remains in your 6th house of health through October 7. It's a perfect time for outdoor exercise and adding fresh autumn fruits and vegetables with whole grain breads to your diet. On October 1 the New Moon in your 5th house brightens romantic prospects. October 2-19 Mercury moves through the 5th creating an upbeat trine aspect as it traces the promise of that New Moon. Friends suggest outings, and new avocations stimulate you mentally. Study, reading, and intelligent conversations will delight you. Enroll in a workshop or seminar during leisure hours. Venus, Pluto, and Mars in your 7th house aspect Saturn from October 20 through Halloween. A partnership becomes more intense and committed. Be aware of how deepest relationships are impacting you. A business contact offers an unusual opportunity which you should consider carefully.

November 1-7 expect animals to need extra care and attention. The Sun and Mercury in your 6th house could bring a beautiful stray cat or dog your way. Wild birds and squirrels would appreciate a handout. November 8-13 Capricorn planets in your 8th house accent investments, insurance, and other financial matters. Use care with purchases made on credit. Don't let others tempt you to overstep your budget and all will be well. The Full Moon in Taurus on the 14th brings hidden facts to light—it shines in your 12th house of mystery. Through the 29th, freedom will be important. The lunation ushers in a two-week cycle in which you're very kind and charitable. You will find spiritual strength in helping those in need. November ends with a New Moon on the 30th conjunct Pluto in your 7th house. Legal and ethical issues are emphasized. Listen to what your heart and instincts tell you.

December 1-16 Saturn changes direction in your 11th house. It's easier to define your role within organizations. Friendships emphasize goals and shared responsibility.

The Full Moon December 13 is in your own sign of Gemini. You are uplifted by it through Yule. Spiritual experiences provide perspective and insight. Ideas you express draw quick response. It's a good time to make suggestions and arrange interviews.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

Old friends and relatives are nostalgic through December 27 as Mercury completes a retrograde cycle in your 7th house. People from your past call or visit more often than usual over the holiday season. Venus changes direction in your 9th house where it moves with Jupiter, Mars, and Uranus in Aquarius until January 9. You can enjoy the foods, music, and art of faraway lands. In-laws are closer, and you can discover more about them. It's also a wonderful time for overseas travel. January 10-24 a favorable Mars aspect blesses you with high vitality. A competitive, enthusiastic attitude carries you toward attainment. You might crusade for a worthwhile cause.

The last week of January through Candlemas retrograde Venus is close to a square with Saturn. Be cautious about love. Make certain your feelings are reciprocated. Keep a good humored attitude if others are a bit self-centered or crass. Try not to ask for favors. On February 4 Jupiter begins a year-long passage through Pisces, generating a good influence in your 10th house of career. Your image is enhanced, and you are given opportunities to demonstrate what you can do professionally. It's a good time to think about a new job or career-related studies. February 19 - March 4 the Sun, Mars, and Mercury cluster with Jupiter in Pisces. This brings more dimension to your professional aspirations. Bask in the limelight of more attention and a few accolades.

March 5-19 you will respond to the Virgo eclipse in your 4th house. Family members are growing and changing. Your residence might require remodeling, minor repairs, or redecorating to make it comfortable for the coming spring.

CANCER



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

A kind word and friendly concern from you turn a tense situation at work into a success from March 20 - All Fools Day. Venus crosses the zenith of your chart and conjoins Saturn in the 10th house of recognition. Focus on creating the right impression; combine professional expertise with the human touch and your year is off to a wonderful beginning. You might be restless about living arrangements with the eclipse in your 4th house on March 23. A good spring cleaning might be enough, but a move is a distinct possibility by year's end.

Throughout April, Mercury and Mars make cheerful double sextile aspects in your 3rd and 11th houses. Positive affirmations create good fortune. Your use of constructive thoughts and words magically uplifts the world you dwell in. A sister or brother becomes a closer friend. A weekend outing gives you renewed energy. April 7-22 make requests of others, launch a promotional campaign, or pursue opportunities in public speaking. The waxing Moon combined with the sextile from the earth sign planets bring all the perfect words to your lips. April 23-30 Venus moves to square Jupiter. It's easy to be overly charitable. Say no to a demanding acquaintance. Be especially conservative when it comes to financial risks or pricey purchases.

May 1-11 check the messages received in dreams and meditations for validity. Your 7th house Neptune transit receives a long square from Mercury's station retro-

grade. It's easy to have a distorted perspective or have misinformation thrust at you. Get the facts. A natural diet is best, but check foods for freshness. Temporarily, near Beltane, avoid alcohol or mushrooms. Through the 20th a strong earth sign emphasis adds new substance to important friendships. Others make plans for the future which happily include you.

On May 22 the Full Moon in your 6th house adds new vitality. Through the end of the month you will find your workload easier and more enjoyable. Horses and large dogs are perfect animal friends.

June begins with Venus crossing into your own birth sign of Cancer. Prepare for a whirlwind of invitations through the summer solstice. It's the best time all year to socialize. With the bright evenings, a new love could warm your heart.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Opportunities for travel are promised as Mercury darts quickly through Cancer from just after summer solstice through July 7. Take a rejuvenating drive along the seacoast or a cruise. Fourth of July brings a New Moon in your own birth sign. This brings focus and stability to summer plans and projects. July 8-30 Leo planets in your 2nd house help you to make decisions about finances. Enthusiasm for new challenges at work is generated by a heavy accent in fire signs during July. You will become more competitive and something of a leader. The Full Moon July 19 conjoins Neptune in opposition to your Sun. Imaginative and spiritual people create an atmosphere of mystery and intrigue. Good or bad acquaintances might not be as they seem.

August 1-13 you will feel Mars square your Sun in the 4th house. Family members are restless; avoid arguing about their mistakes. Humor helps. Focus on comfort and safety of the house itself. A new residence may seem tempting. August 14-17 Venus is well aspected in your 3rd house. The poet in you is reborn. Your lyrical command of language helps you win support. Make important calls and write letters. August

18-30 active leisure pursuits such as sailing, scuba diving, and beachcombing are enjoyable. Mars moves through Scorpio in an energetic trine from your 5th house of pleasure. Children may involve you in new avocations.

September's eclipses on the 1st and 16th of the month brighten your 3rd and 9th houses through the equinox. Visit your favorite bookstore or enroll in classes at a metaphysical center. Meditations are deep and meaningful. Mercury is retrograde through the 10th, allowing you to understand a complex neighbor or sibling. Review and reread. Ideas which were hard to grasp are suddenly crystal clear. September 11-20 Venus is friendly as she enters Scorpio and your 5th house of love. Attend concerts and other cultural events. Wear new clothes in bright jewel tones such as ruby or amethyst. Your life is about to be showered with new pleasures.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

There is an exhilaration, an air of romance through October 8 as Venus remains in Scorpio. Put pleasure before business, and listen to the heart instead of the head. From October 9 until just after Halloween, the mood shifts with three planets, including somber Pluto, in your 6th house. Team spirit is a must at work. You will reach your goals by fitting in with the crowd. Natural healing techniques and alternative therapies rejuvenate you. Health is a focus.

November 1-7 converse with and listen to those you love. Leisure hours are brightened by intellectually stimulating hobbies and games. Try chess. Mercury and the Sun spin together in a 5th house trine. November 8-30 is a time when opposites attract. Venus, Mars, and Neptune oppose you from the 7th house. Others are elusive, charming, and independent. Enjoy your companions as they are; don't try to change them.

December finds Saturn stationed at your midheaven. Those in positions of authority are uncertain. Work hard and be patient until they feel more settled before announcing your own goals. Recognition

is a bit slow in coming just now. Find satisfaction within from a job well done. The week before Yule your 6th house is especially strong. Get organized. A life in good order brings peace of mind and relieves stress.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

From the solstice through New Year's Day, Venus changes direction in your 8th house. A new view of love and desire develops. Intimate contacts hint at past life connections. The New Moon in Capricorn on December 29 ushers in a four-week cycle when commitments and partnerships are reevaluated. January 1-11 Mercury makes a quincunx accenting health. Avoid close contact with those who are ill. Protect yourself from winter's chill with hot cider, steaming chocolate, and thick sweaters to assure continued well-being.

The Full Moon in Cancer January 12 puts you in the thoughts of others. Prepare for offers and suggestions. You might mediate a dispute or receive a proposal. A close aspect with Jupiter to the lunation should favor finances through the last quarter of the Moon on January 20. January 21 through Candlemas week the Venus retrograde in your 7th house can make others insecure about their jobs and talents. Bolster a friend with encouraging comments and tell a few jokes. The pattern culminates February 5.

The first week of February Jupiter begins a year-long passage through Pisces, trine you from the 9th house. Enroll in educational programs or gather details in preparation for a long journey. If you have aspirations to write or teach, now is the time to develop them. On February 26 the solar eclipse in Pisces reveals specifics. February 27 - March 8 a favorable Mercury influence helps you to make wise choices—you're especially quick and clever.

March 9 through winter's end Mars and Saturn combine in your 10th house. You'll be enthused, yet serious about your professional aspirations. Don't ask for favors; others are impressed by your dedication and self-sufficiency.

LEO



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

Depth of insight and a new mental clarity are spring's first gifts to you. Mercury conjoining the Sun and Saturn in Aries in your 9th house holds this in force through March 31. Make plans, enjoy new books, or write about technical subjects or social issues. On All Fool's Day a grand trine in earth signs forms. Throughout April you will enjoy nature. Walk outdoors and watch the daily miracles of spring. You'll be more enthused about work and can begin projects which will be a focus for many months to come. April 1-15 Venus in your sister fire sign of Aries brings promising social prospects. It's a perfect time to try new craft projects or enjoy music.

May 1-8 Mercury completes its retrograde at your midheaven. Consider career related decisions, but postpone changes involving work until May 10. May Eve brings news from old friends; nostalgia is sweet and strong.

Become active in groups and show friends you care from May 11-31. Your social circle could widen, but you must make the first move. Creative and fashionable friends make good companions. Venus makes a charming sextile in your 11th house. Plan a party near Memorial Day with rich, delectable desserts. The Full Moon on May 22 in your 5th house of love could steer a friendship into a more intimate bond.

June 1-19 Mars completes a long passage through your 2nd house. You might shop diligently for a special treasure and will guard possessions. Avoid arguments about money and belongings. Keep a per-

spective about the true value of material security. The week of June 10 Jupiter turns retrograde in your 7th house while opposing your Sun. Resist the influence of a close partner—a loved one could be a bit too adventurous or optimistic. Your own hunches offer the best guidance. June 11 through summer solstice Venus is in the deepest part of your 12th house. Enjoy secrets with and about those you love. Pleasure comes from doing a good deed or favor quietly.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Mars moves into an energizing 3rd house aspect. The first week of summer favors exercise and brings a competitive attitude. Short journeys are inspirational as well as educational. Venus enters your own birth sign of Leo on June 29, remaining there until July 23. Life is less serious, and there is time to bask in the healing summer sun. Since the Sun is your astrological ruler, you will revel in the bright, warm days now. Visit outdoor art shows, and watch for festivals and concerts to attend during late June and July. July 9-27 Mercury transits Leo, promising travel opportunities. It's also a time to make decisions and gather information, as your mental energies will be first rate. The end of July through August 13 Venus aspects Neptune in your 2nd and 6th houses. There is a harmony between spiritual and material values. You will see how services performed reward you on many levels. The New Moon in your own birth sign August 3 brings an insight into your unique talents. There is a clarity about long-range priorities. Meditate on a candle flame or outdoor campfire for guidance.

The last half of August brings Pluto's retrograde in your 5th house to a close. This tiny but powerful planet transforms and uplifts your attitude about love as it begins to trine your Sun. You recover from old heartaches and discover new sources of delight. Consider getting involved with a community theater during leisure hours. September opens with an eclipse near retrograde Mercury in your 2nd house. Be

flexible about learning a new job skill. Your income might be less steady, but this can provide a new opportunity. The details are revealed when Mercury turns direct September 10. Venus enters your 4th house September 11, remaining there through the autumnal equinox. Bring beauty into your home with an arrangements of harvest fruits and flowers interspersed with the first colored leaves. Relatives respond to your gestures of love and affection. Family life improves.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

There is a grace and elegance to all communication as the Sun enjoys benevolent aspects with Pluto and Uranus upon entering your 3rd house. September 22-28 write letters, make calls, and initiate conversations. Your ideas will be well received. On September 29 Mars enters Sagittarius to begin a cycle of higher energy and motivation which lasts through November 8. You will enjoy sports, games, and challenges. Your vibrant personality is in evidence, and there's a new zest to your love life.

October 9-31 Saturn in your 9th house is energized by the other fire sign transits. You will feel more secure about spiritual beliefs. Travel for business or education generates tangible rewards. The Aries Full Moon on October 15 reveals the specifics of this in your own life. Faraway places or foreign born people impart new perspectives.

November 1-7 Mercury and the Sun create a square in the 4th house. Take time to clean and organize your living space. Be diplomatic if bringing up sensitive issues with a relative or tenant. November 8-22 Jupiter and Saturn in sextile bring better finances to your partner. This is beneficial to you indirectly. Legal matters are resolved in your favor too. November 23 - December 11 Venus conjoins Neptune in your health sector. Aromatherapy, color and sound healings, and affirmations add to your well-being. December 12-24 oppositions from Aquarius planets inspire others to make holiday plans. Cooperate and you'll be pleasantly surprised. See humor

in the whimsical caprice of a partner.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

December 22-31 be scrupulously correct in following rules, both written and unwritten. Mars conjoins Uranus in your 7th house of law. A favorable Mercury pattern brings wonderful conversations with those you love. January 1-24 cardinal sign planets, including the Full Moon in Cancer, find you anxious to retreat from large crowds and external pressures. Moments of solitude refresh and renew you. January 25-31 Mars crosses into your 8th house. There can be success with past life studies. Mysteries of all kinds pique your interest. This intensifies just after Candlemas when Jupiter follows Mars to commence a year-long stay in that sector.

The Full Moon February 11 in your own sign of Leo dispels your reserve. You will become more gregarious. Over the next two weeks your charisma generates support and enthusiasm. Demonstrate what you can do; be a leader. The eclipse February 26 activates a stellium of four Pisces planets at a quincunx to your Sun. Other people and external factors impact your financial situation. Examine new investment strategies, look at tax and insurance options too. Expect ample rewards but unexpected revelations from all kinds of research the last days of February through March 7.

March 8 Mercury joins three other planets, including Pluto, in fire signs. This creates a strong cosmic harmony in your birth chart lasting through the equinox. Attend a meditation circle or visit a sacred site with the one you love most. Discuss and resolve old puzzles. Your cheery words and bright smile let others glimpse the inner warmth you feel as winter ends.

Neptune dances on the cusp of Aquarius to begin a fourteen-year stay in your 7th house of relationships throughout the season. This creates a subtle psychic connection with some people. Others might not be all they seem to be. Seek spiritual and creative companions. Avoid those who drift or prove unreliable.

VIRGO



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

The promise of spring stirs a powerful spirit of adventure within you. Mars is transiting your own birth sign until June 19. Your motivation and enthusiasm help you to accomplish a great deal, if you steer clear of petty confrontations. The March 23 eclipse in your 2nd house of finance cautions you to investigate financial decisions and commitments carefully. Learning a new skill and being aware of the latest developments in your field will assure success and security.

April 1-15 Venus moves in close conjunction with the Aries Sun in your 8th house. Others have a beneficial impact on your finances. A tax return, investment income, or insurance check arrives to help your cash flow. Love has a transcendent quality. You could have a dream or vision about an ancient spiritual link with a loved one. Mercury, your ruler, turns retrograde in Taurus April 16 - May 9, creating a pleasant 9th house trine. It's the perfect time to prepare to go back to school or to take a return journey to a place connected to happy memories. Reread books you've enjoyed before or watch a favorite film again. The New Moon in Taurus on May 6 brings the potentials of this trend into clearer focus.

May 10 - June 3 strong mutable aspects funnel into your 4th house. You might work at home. A relative can guide your career path. Bring sanctity to your residence by adding plants to an exposed window, exchanging harsh lights for more subdued lamps, or selecting new drapes to fend off the coming hot summer sun.

June 4-20 the Sun and Mercury move to aspect Mars while squaring your Sun. You feel the need to accomplish more. This ambition leads you to pursue your work with an intensity. Don't let job-related stress build. If you challenge others, add a touch of charm and humor. Being a good listener will be a tremendous advantage now.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Health is excellent as summer solstice comes. A grand trine in air signs through July 3 bolsters your 6th house. With Uranus there, it's the perfect time to examine new herbal remedies and health foods. Experimental and alternative health care can be very rewarding.

July 4-8 Mercury joins the Sun in your 11th house. You will appreciate contacts with groups and organizations. A friend makes a helpful recommendation. July 9-18 subtle background influences from Leo planets in your 12th house bring hidden information to the fore when most needed. Be cautious about expressing love and devotion too overtly. Wilderness areas add to your serenity and strengthen you. Get out into nature whenever you can.

The Full Moon on July 19 shines on Neptune in your love and romance sector. You will experience a psychic link with your beloved and can establish a stronger bond before the New Moon. This two-week cycle near Lammas is marvelous for creative expression. Let the artist, actor, poet, or musician within you surface July 19 - August 3.

August 4-16 Venus and Mercury march together through your own birth sign and your 1st house. Purchase new clothes, and focus on projecting the best image possible. Appearances count. You manage to say the right thing at the right time and can create your own opportunities. Social prospects continue to be bright. Consider planning a large picnic for favorite people. On August 17 Mercury begins a retrograde cycle which lasts until September 10. It conjoins the September 1 eclipse in Virgo. Prepare for one of the most exciting birthdays ever. Plans go awry, but a

shift in direction will open new avenues of opportunity. A job change, move, or important new relationship is promised. If you've been meditating diligently and recording your dreams, the eclipse in your sign could bring about a spectacular spiritual awakening.

September 11-20 will be more peaceful with favorable aspects from Mars and Venus in your 3rd house. You can talk through problems and make decisions. Logic and reason rule. A neighbor becomes a better friend.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

Take a drive to admire autumn scenery and purchase apples, pumpkins, or other harvest fruits and vegetables near the equinox. Through October 1 Mercury is favorable. It's a great time to make long-range plans and attend classes or seminars. Your mind is sharp and your tongue quick. October 2-19 your 2nd house is accented. You will enjoy creature comforts and be something of a gourmet. Working extra hours to boost earnings is on the agenda. October 20 - November 4 Mars, Pluto, and Venus all square you from the 4th house.

Get away from home and family to celebrate Halloween. Accept relatives as they are and resist the temptation to try to change them. Focus on making your residence as safe and comfortable as possible for the coming winter and complete important repairs. November 5-30 earth sign transits combine with a Full Moon in Taurus to restore harmony. You'll enjoy a new hobby or game with a friend. A spiritual circle or metaphysical study group enhances inner peace.

December 1-6 is rather low-key, a good time to catch your breath and relax. Mercury turns retrograde December 7. Your 4th and 5th houses are in a stir through Yule. Don't repeat counterproductive patterns in love and family life. Verify all holiday plans and appointments. Simplicity is the key to a successful season of merrymaking. The Full Moon on the 13th is an excellent time to take a break from your work.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

A relaxed mood with relatives and patience with coworkers will launch the new season successfully. Pluto in your 4th house is aspected well by Aquarius planets. See the beauty and humor in individual personality quirks of others through New Year's Eve. Mercury turns direct on December 27, making a square to your Sun. Your mind will be active, examining all sides of every question.

You'll welcome the climax of the holiday season and be anxious to return to work by January 1. Health and vitality are good January 2-18 with the Sun in benefic aspect. A spiritual, ethereal quality blesses your love life midmonth as Venus, Neptune, and the Sun align in your 5th house of pleasure and romance. January 15-20 is a good time to express yourself artistically. January 21-31 Mars approaches and enters your 7th house. Exciting, dynamic people enter your life.

Candlemas week finds Venus completing her retrograde in a beneficial trine to your Sun. February 1-7 you have a new, more positive perspective about what love really means. A healthier quality comes into intimate relationships. February 8-28 you will feel first Mars and Jupiter, then the Sun and Mercury in opposition aspect. Be careful about peer pressure; think for yourself. Listen to your own inner guidance above and beyond any advice offered. Others will tend to be very adventurous and optimistic. You can learn a lot by observing the successes as well as the failures of others.

March blows in on winds of change. A lunar eclipse in your sign on the 12th underscores the specifics. You might be due for a new job or home in the days to come. Welcome innovation and all will be well. March 1-7 Venus forms a tie with Neptune in your 6th house. Animal friends offer wonderful companionship. Create a kind and helpful attitude at work. March 8-20 investigate and analyze. Your 8th house is occupied by Mercury, Saturn, and Mars. Don't deny the facts; apply astute insight and you will dissolve all barriers.

LIBRA



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

The new season begins with a fresh breath of change and promise. Reflect on your goals and priorities until March 23 when the eclipse in your own birth sign ushers in a whole new way of life. Over the next six months a different job, a move, or even a new love can make you feel reborn. April opens with Venus, your ruling planet, conjunct the Sun in your 7th house. From April 1-15 others shower you with attention and involve you in their plans. Express enthusiasm and team spirit to assure success. Legal matters work in your favor. April 16 - May 12 Taurus planets in your 8th house emphasize the need to be discreet and to do research. A touch of secrecy at the right time assures success. There is a new intensity to your desires and feelings.

Uranus turns retrograde in your 5th house and is supported by a trine from Venus through June 3. Cultural and creative interests bring joy. You'll delight in getting to know different types of people. Travel brings social opportunities. Music and poetry evoke spiritual feelings. Experiment with shamanic drumming or place a statue of a favorite deity on your altar to heighten perceptions.

June 3-20 Venus in your 10th house makes your marvelous creative aptitudes a plus at work. Friends assist your professional growth. The week of June 9-15 a strong Mercury-Pluto opposition in your travel sectors shows you could be profoundly impacted by a journey. The skillful use of both written and spoken words will open new windows of opportunity.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Solstice Eve finds Mars crossing into your own birth sign. Issues which began last January-February can become important again. You are very dynamic and assertive and able to accomplish a great deal through August 13. Exercise suddenly has greater appeal. June 24 - July 7 Mercury makes harsh aspects to other cardinal sign planets including Saturn. There is a competitive feeling present at work. Be diplomatic and resist the temptation to gossip. July 8-23 a pleasant sextile from Leo planets in your 11th house allows you to mend relationships. Involvement with groups and social services or political interests can enrich your life. The Full Moon August 18 in your love sector conjoins benevolent Jupiter. This brings kindness and admiration from others. Venus enters your own sign where it will remain until September 11. Prepare for a whirlwind of fun and happiness. Pursue the arts during leisure hours. Experiment with love sorcery.

September 11-22 is a more grounded and earthy cycle. An eclipse in your 6th house is augmented by 2nd house Scorpio transits. Develop new job skills; be reliable and conscientious with job performance. There may be adjustments in the status quo at work.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

Your birthday month begins with a favorable Sun-Pluto aspect. Success comes if you are in tune with popular ideas. Understand what has mass appeal. Conformity adds a smoothness and elegance to all you do. The New Moon October 1 in your own birth sign of Libra returns your independence and lets you revel in uniqueness. It's a time to strengthen natural aptitudes.

October 2-19 Mercury is very strong. Travel stimulates and educates you. Influential books open you to new ideas. Make calls and write letters. It's a time to share information and ideas. October 20-31 Mars and Saturn are in harmony, blessing your 3rd and 7th houses. Your heart will be warmed by the loyal support for your ideas

from those closest to you. Establish partnerships and make commitments of all kinds by Halloween. Contracts and negotiations conclude favorably.

The first week of November is a marvelous time for shopping. You will have an awareness of what you need to assure comfort and security. The Sun shines on your sector of possessions and finance. Resist the temptation to judge others by their income, however. Genuine wealth wears many faces. November 8-30 Mercury, Pluto, and eventually the Sun form a sextile to you. You'll concentrate well and develop a new clarity of understanding. Your technical expertise is helpful with a special project.

December 1-11 family life is joyful, with a benign Venus transit through the 4th house. Decorate your home for Yuletide and stock up on refreshments. A relative who is normally reserved is warmer and more loving. December 12-21 a stellium of planets begins to form in Aquarius making a trine from your 5th house. Children are a source of delight. Experiment with new games and festivities—the atmosphere is jolly. You would enjoy participating in holiday pageants or attending a concert of seasonal music. Select holiday gifts which are purely for pleasure. This isn't a time to be serious or practical. The Full Moon in Gemini on December 13 brings the full potential of this lighthearted energy to the surface. The retrograde Mercury in force the last three weeks of December tempts others to be uncertain of plans. Allow for some cancellations. Expect drop-in visits from longtime friends.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

You will be very sensitive to winds and chills from the winter solstice through New Year's Day. A combination of minor aspects accents weather in your birth chart. Meditate on a warm fire while sipping hot soup or a cup of cocoa. Avoid close contact with guests who show cold symptoms.

January 2-9 Venus retrogrades away from the 5th house. Romantic trends are shifting. You may experience a change of

heart about a loved one or have to accept that someone you care for is a bit preoccupied. By the New Moon in Aquarius on January 28 you will have a better idea of what the future holds regarding love. Throughout January, a strong accent on the cardinal signs makes it important to balance career demands with family life. Be patient, as the stress will lessen by month's end. Postpone real estate transactions or any changes in living arrangements during January. A stable, familiar environment is nurturing.

February opens with Neptune starting a long passage through Aquarius. Use color and music to express spiritual feelings at Candlemas. Psychic links with loved ones are becoming more vivid. A new spirituality touches a love affair. February 5-18 a supportive Mercury influence brings a lyrical quality to your words. Write a poem or volunteer to do some public speaking. You will communicate especially well. February 19-28 brings a focus on health with several Pisces planets including Jupiter, the healer, in your 6th house. You will be motivated to seek wellness in every way. Study health-related publications and discuss fitness with others.

March 1-4 Mars completes a quincunx aspect. Humor and good-natured acceptance may be the best remedy for an awkward situation at work. Be philosophical regarding coworkers and employment conditions. Your 7th house is energized by Aries planets from March 5-20. Others are inspired by you. A partnership is available. Listen carefully to the words and ideas expressed to sense whether a closer involvement is right for you. The Full Moon's eclipse in Virgo on March 12 affects your 12th house. It ushers in a two-week cycle when you will be especially sympathetic and kind to those in need. Great satisfaction comes from involvement in charitable projects. You will have an active inner life as winter ends. Many of your deepest thoughts and feelings will be internalized. It's a perfect time to begin a journal and spend extra time recording and analyzing your dreams.

SCORPIO



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

Memories are powerful and vivid. The vernal equinox marks a turn in the great yearly wheel, but both of your ruling planets (Mars and Pluto) are retrograde. It is a time of paradox in your life, as you will seem to move forward by looking back. The eclipse on March 23 is in your 12th house. It's an ideal evening for past life studies. Forgive yourself for old mistakes and resolve to create a wonderful new year as spring begins.

March 24 - All Fool's Day your 6th house is strong. Pets are especially good companions. Stroke your favorite cat and absorb healing energies. Your health improves by April 16, but don't worry if you need extra rest before then. April 17-30 retrograde Mercury opposing from Taurus brings indecision from others. Allow them to revise plans, but be independent. The Full Moon in your own birth sign of Scorpio on April 22 helps you focus on important priorities. Creativity is at a high point the entire week.

May Eve finds a strong aspect pattern in fixed signs affecting your 4th and 7th houses. You will recognize new needs expressed by relatives. Bring a spiritual, healing atmosphere to the home. Through May 10 don't let yourself be swayed by well meant advice. Avoid legal entanglements. May 11-30 Jupiter's influence brings a zest for adventure. You will long to experiment and gamble. Go ahead and take a risk—the experience makes it worthwhile.

May 31 - June 5 your 8th house is activated by Gemini transits and the New

Moon. Keep desires and compulsions balanced; there is an intensity present. Some new financial and investment strategies are worth examining to boost security. June 6 through summer solstice Venus moves through your sister water sign of Cancer, creating a pleasant trine in your 9th house. It is the perfect time for a vacation at a scenic waterfront area or for a cruise to foreign ports. Love assumes a spiritual quality. Attend meditation circles or visit a retreat center with those dearest to you.

SUMMER - June 21-Sept. 22

Faraway places with exotic names beckon as summer begins. The Sun and Mercury are both in your 9th house through July 7. It's an optimum time for travel. July 8-31 career becomes more of a focus with Leo transits activating your 10th house at the zenith of your birth chart. Your superb communication skills and charm carry you forward professionally. Social events planned by coworkers can lead to a promotion just before Lammastide.

August 1-13 a grand trine in fire signs affects your sectors of work and money. It's easier to meet expenses, and you'll find your work load lighter and more enjoyable. August 14-31 Mars moves into your own birth sign and strongly aspects Uranus. Control anger and impulses. A family member can be a bit volatile. Exercise restores balance and well-being. Your motivation is high and you can accomplish much.

During September you will make some changes in your circle of friends and group affiliations. The eclipses in Virgo and Pisces on September 1 and 16 affect your sectors of love and friendship. You will recognize that an intimate relationship is undergoing a transformation. Be progressive, and realize that change is essential. Update your long-range goals.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

Autumnal equinox week finds both Mars and Venus in your own birth sign. Put creative ideas into action, and add some beautiful objects to your home or work

place. Purchase garments to wear for the new season.

October 1-19 Libra placements highlight the secrets of your 12th house. Look to see how you can be your own best friend or worst enemy. Time spent alone restores peace and helps release stress. Heed the messages sent by your dreams. October 20 - November 7 Mercury in your sign allows you to express yourself. Discuss concerns and iron out communication problems with others. The feeling of aloneness dissipates. It's a perfect time for travel or to purchase a vehicle. Halloween brings you a New Moon in Scorpio. The holiday holds a deep spiritual significance. Create a new beginning celebrating your own birthday month as well as Celtic New Year.

November 8-30 Mars, Venus, and Neptune send energizing sextile aspects through your 3rd house. Your positive state of mind wins admiration from others. Short journeys are productive. Gather interesting books and magazines to read during the cool, dark evenings. A neighbor is friendly and helpful.

December 1-6 solemn Saturn aspects Sagittarius planets in your 2nd house of money favorably. You budget and shop wisely. Finances are on firmer ground. December 7-21 retrograde Mercury affects travel schedules and holiday plans. Gifts might be the wrong size or color, so keep all receipts. Double check addresses to avert mail mix-ups. On December 12 Venus enters your home and family sector. Your home is a haven of love and comfort. Through the solstice you will enjoy entertaining and relaxing there. Extra efforts at holiday decorating bring beautiful results.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

Mars, Uranus, and retrograde Venus all form a square aspect to your Sun during the last days of 1997. Adopt a live-and-let-live attitude in coping with an independent or eccentric relative. Get minor repairs around your home done and out of the way. You might consider new furnishings or even a new residence as the New Year approaches.

January 1-12 favorable fire sign influ-

ences warm your sector of work and daily routine. It's easier to get organized, which leads to a productive cycle. Health and vitality improve. January 13-28 there may be a difference of beliefs and values brewing with a relative. Don't be sentimental—instead pursue what works in the here and now with home and family dynamics. On January 28 Neptune begins a long passage through Aquarius, your 4th house. By Candlemas there is a hint that hidden facts about your heritage may come to light. Use your intuition in studying the family tree. If you sense a ghost in the house, its intentions are friendly and benevolent.

On February 4 Jupiter joins Mars in Pisces. Both form a supportive trine in your 5th house. Through the end of the month, luck is generally good. Be adventurous and don't take life too seriously. By Valentine's Day love prospects are bright and promising. February 20-28 Mercury and the Sun enter Pisces and move toward a conjunction with Jupiter and Mars. This is a highly creative time. Leisure hours are rich and productive. You have a lighthearted inner glow which chases away winter's doldrums for all those whose lives you touch.

March begins with Mars crossing over the cusp of your 6th house to join Saturn in Aries. Activity helps health. A competitive feeling develops at work or with a project March 1-10. Use caution in adopting a new animal; make certain it will fit into the household well before making a commitment. This is especially true if you're considering a large dog, goat, or wild animal.

March 11 brings a time of reverie. Pluto, your ruler, turns retrograde in Sagittarius. You will be less interested in material security, more intrigued with other values. Past life recall and a fascination with ecology can be a part of this change in consciousness. It is a time of subtle growth within. The eclipse late March 12 on the Full Moon in Virgo illumines your 11th house of wishes. By winter's end you will know what you want most. Goals are redefined and clarified March 12-20. Don't feel sad if a friend drifts away. New associates will be drawn to you soon.

SAGITTARIUS



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

There is time to share a comfortable joke or enjoy favorite games and hobbies with a friend as springtime begins. Your 5th house of good times is highlighted by three Aries transits through April 19. Since serious Saturn is one of them, an avocation could evolve into a job. The eclipse of March 23 makes a friendly sextile in your 11th house. Network with new groups; your circle of acquaintances has added sparkle. You'll select new goals before April ends. The last week of April Mars turns direct in your career sector. Extra energy and ambition bless your public life. Some tension brews near May Eve with a competitive colleague.

May 1-10 Mercury stations on the cusp of your 6th house of health. Be well informed about health care options, and be gentle with your body. Time and the natural healing process can relieve minor maladies. A touch of confusion makes daily work rather hectic. Relax and regroup. A problem is less serious than it first seemed. On May 11 Venus begins a passage through your relationship sector. You will feel more loved and cherished, with others drawing closer to you by June 3. Any legal matters turn to your advantage. It's a marvelous time to form commitments and partnerships of all kinds. The Full Moons on May 22 and June 20 both shine in your own birth sign of Sagittarius. This is very rare and augurs a cycle of heightened spiritual energy. May and June favor dream interpretation, meditation, and creativity. You'll discover more about yourself by the solstice. June 10 begins an introspective time. Old memories and the momentum of past

habits will affect you as Jupiter, your ruler, is retrograde.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Summer solstice through July 1 you will probe beneath the surface of events and companions. It's a time when puzzles and mysteries are clarified. Cancer planets aspect you from the 8th house with a quincunx. Be very honest with yourself. It's not a time to practice denial. July 1-26 ushers in a more uplifting, expansive time. Venus, then the Sun, will move into Leo to trine Pluto in your 1st house. Travel opportunities can be a sheer joy. You will recover from old disappointments of the heart. Visits to cultural, historical, and sacred sites in distant places are highlights.

July 29 - August 12 Mars aspects Neptune in your sector of finance. Be realistic about purchasing on credit. Make practical decisions about your job. Don't gamble with security. August 13 begins a strong Pluto influence in which this mysterious planet turns direct in your sign and begins to aspect Uranus in your 3rd house. Through the end of the month you will sense a time of rebirth and renewal. Ecology, recycling, and visiting rummage sales and resale shops are all activities which may interest you. You will have new insights about childhood friends and school years.

September 1 brings an important eclipse in your 10th house. Lightning-like changes are affecting your professional status. Welcome upsets at work as a chance to grow. You'll be aware of how important reputation is through September 16. From then through autumnal equinox your home is a focus. Your housing needs could change, as relatives discuss moves or other domestic adjustments. Mercury goes direct September 10 and squares your Sun. This can bring a surprise announcement which changes your plans.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

Good deeds performed secretly bring you a deep inner happiness near the autumnal equinox. Venus is in your 12th house until

October 7. This may make it awkward to express love and admiration openly. Guard your heart. Patience and subtlety aid romance. Jupiter, your ruler, turns direct October 8 in a wide conjunction with Uranus in your 3rd house. This generates marvelous spiritual growth through Halloween. You will be able to analyze surroundings and improve your life in practical ways. Casual conversations or news stories could be a catalyst for new opportunity. React quickly to assure success.

November 1-7 Scorpio transits in your 12th house generate especially vivid and meaningful dreams. Analyze them and enjoy new insights into your own psyche. Time spent alone is refreshing and healing. You will revel in quiet outdoor scenery. November 8-30 Mercury enters your own birth sign and conjoins Pluto. Travel uplifts and rejuvenates you. It's an optimum time to enroll in classes or catch up on reading. If you've always wanted to try your hand at writing, now is the time to begin. You have a new depth of understanding in your studies. The New Moon in your sign November 29 brings acute awareness of priorities.

December 1-10 your 2nd house sets the pace, highlighted by three Capricorn planets including Venus. Enjoy shopping for beautiful, meaningful holiday gifts. It's a materialistic cycle. You will appreciate the comfort and freedom that having enough money can bring and may find yourself working hard to assure a better standard of living. Extra income comes through the excellent quality of your work and the energy you pour into it.

In the cool, dark days before Yule (December 11-20), Aquarius and Sagittarius planets move into harmonious sextile aspects. Your clever expression of ideas converts others to your way of thinking. Health and vitality are improving. Examine new herbal teas or treat yourself to a massage. Incense or aromatic oils also do much to enhance well-being.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

From the solstice through New Year's Day your 3rd house is very strong. Neighbors

are friendly but can be a bit demanding. Use care in making promises. Your sense of humor helps keep relationships with siblings smooth. Ignore their little peccadilloes. January 3-13 Saturn in your 5th house is well aspected by several planets in air and fire signs. Children are enjoyable company. Love affairs are more settled, and it's the perfect time to plan a future with the one you love. A hobby can bring extra income or valuable contacts. January 14-31 Mercury moves rapidly through your 2nd house. Your flair for communication affects income positively. Extra reading and research enhance earning power. You will think about making important new purchases.

Candlemas week finds Jupiter joining Mars in Pisces in your 4th house. Improvements and expansion in your home are a focus. You might plan to move or redecorate. Don't put off essential repairs. Family members are restless; allow them to grow. February 8-28 planets in mutable signs form a pattern of squares. The New Moon on the 26th brings this to a peak. Be flexible to cope with challenges. It's not the time to repeat the same old patterns. If you're not content, experiment.

March 1-4 intense focus on the home continues. Meditate on your family crest or the origins of your surname for new insights into your heritage. This will serve as a springboard to growth and guidance. March 5-20 Mars enters Aries. It moves to conjoin Saturn in a supportive trine. Winter ends on a note of hope and strength. Loved ones are responsive and caring. You sense a deep love and appreciation flowing from the ones for whom you care most. During leisure hours you revel in activity. Walk outdoors and enjoy the winter landscape, plan a ski holiday, or join a gym and begin to get in shape for spring. The lunar eclipse in Virgo on March 12 is extremely important to you. It makes dynamic aspects in your 10th house. A surprise may befall you at work. New career developments turn out to be a blessing. Follow safety procedures and rules meticulously to protect well-being and reputation as winter ends.

CAPRICORN



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

There is promise of abundance at vernal equinox. Jupiter, planet of plenty, is in your 2nd house of money. The eclipse of March 24 trines it from your career sector. Your productivity and versatility are on the rise, and the year is off to a good start. April 1-15 the focus is on family life. Venus moves with the Sun in your 4th house. Entertain at home; express love and support toward relatives. It's a favorable cycle for establishing a new residence too. The last half of April finds retrograde Mercury with Venus well aspected in your 5th house. It's the perfect time to break a bad habit. During leisure hours enjoy nature's beauty. Collect unusual stones and plants.

A glowing new vitality rushes through you near May Eve. Benevolent aspects from Mars and the Sun generate enthusiasm and well-being. May 1-19 music is a special focus. Play rhythm instruments such as drums or rattles during meditation or while exercising. Sing to the lush growth unfolding all around you. May 20-31 you will sense an unpredictable financial cycle starting. Uranus turns retrograde in your 2nd house. Be aware of new trends affecting your work. This isn't the time to gamble. Secure your belongings. May 22 brings the first of two Full Moons in your 12th house, and it's best not to be naive about the need for routine safety precautions. June brings Venus and Saturn aspects in your 4th and 7th houses. Be sensitive to the needs of partners and relatives. Resist the temptation to be evasive if demands arise. Legal matters clear up just before the solstice.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

June concludes with interesting gossip and intriguing ideas being expressed. Mercury is in opposition through July 7. Listen and learn, but don't be too easily swayed. Avoid noise pollution if stress builds. Strong wills and diverse viewpoints take you by surprise July 8-18. Mars in Libra makes strong angles to cardinal sign planets. You must strive to resolve disputes. Be calm with volatile individuals. The Full Moon in your sign July 19 begins a two-week pattern of heightened sensitivity. Keep a perspective and laugh at little problems. Dreams provide a wealth of guidance through the end of the month. Approach others with suggestions and ideas.

Lammastide finds your 9th house brightened by Venus and Mercury in your sister earth sign of Virgo. The positive pattern lasts through August 17. Enjoy the art and foods of other lands. Plan a trip, purchase new books, or arrange to continue your education—the 9th house is highlighted. August 17-31 is a perfect time to brush up on skills and review old interests as a well aspected Mercury retrograde goes into force. September's eclipses on the 1 and 16 affect your 3rd and 9th houses. Travel plans can change, and a vehicle may need replacement or repair. Have alternative transportation in mind. New perspectives regarding spiritual practices are developing.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

From autumnal equinox through September 28 Mars sextiles Neptune in your birth sign. Physical activity such as yoga or hiking help you attune to the needs of your psyche. The kindness of a friend blesses your life. September 29 - October 19 Libra transits affect your career sector. The New Moon October 1 emphasizes the full impact. Coworkers are vocal, and new colleagues appear. The spirit of cooperation assures success.

October 20 a softer trend emerges with a favorable Mercury in your 11th house. People listen to your ideas with

more patience, and stress dissipates by the New Moon on Halloween. That lunation affects goals and priorities. It's an optimum time to crystallize plans and make commitments. November 1-8 your 12th house is strongly evident. You could become aware of a past life. You will cherish your privacy.

One of the best social cycles you've experienced in years begins November 5. Venus begins a prominent passage which will last through March 4, 1998. You can build bonds which will last for many years. It is also excellent for creativity of all kinds. On November 9 Mars enters your birth sign where it will remain until just before Yule. You will be competitive and purposeful. Motivation is high and much can be accomplished. The Full Moon in Taurus November 14 brings in two weeks of happiness. Devote time to a new avocation, and reach out to those you admire. November 28 - December 8 Venus conjoins Neptune. The realm of faerie is opening. Heed portents from the fey ones. Color and sound are especially important. Wear a bright garment, and enjoy holiday music featuring harps, panpipes, and flutes.

December 9-21 Aquarius planets in your 2nd house bring a more grounded mood. You will follow through with plans to assure security. Work is rewarding and stabilizing. You will be your usual businesslike and practical self again for a while. The Full Moon on December 13 in your 6th house involves you in getting organized and keeping up with obligations. Don't be overly critical of an employee or subordinate near that date. Small creatures provide love and companionship as the darkest days approach.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

Your birthday month begins with a tendency to keep your own counsel. Retrograde Mercury and Pluto are buried in your 12th house through December 27. Memories and regrets touch your thoughts. Dismiss old disappointments as learning experiences. The year ends with a New Moon in your sign. From December 29 on, form

New Year's resolutions. Your sense of identity and destiny strengthens, and confidence increases as 1998 begins.

January 1-11 responsibility, managing time wisely, and traditional values guide you. Saturn is square the Capricorn Sun. Be early if meeting a deadline. The Full Moon in Cancer January 12 makes you aware of a partner's talents. You will win love by helping one close to you. Others trust and confide in you. Mercury moves through your sign the last half of January. It's a perfect time to travel. You learn and heal while wandering new pathways. Studies are rewarding, and your mind is quick and keen.

Late on January 28 a very important celestial occurrence takes place: Neptune leaves your birth sign after a passage of about 14 years. You will understand how past events helped your spiritual growth. Confusion clears. You will realize you've conquered an old phobia or inhibition by Candlemas.

The first week of February Jupiter joins Mars in Pisces highlighting your 3rd house. You are anxious to communicate. Controversy and debate thrill you. There is a need to crusade for causes you believe in. Humor and patience ease a situation with a difficult neighbor. The eclipse on February 26 brings this trend to a crescendo. Direct your mental energy into writing, studies, or teaching. Allow extra time for travel; short journeys may be marked by a few delays.

March 1-4 Venus exits your sign with a benevolent aspect to Mars. A relationship has wonderful potential, but it is up to you to nurture it. March 5-20 Aries planets stir up your 4th house. Your residence may need repair. A family member is temperamental; communication helps resolve problems. You are trying to balance security needs with changing times at home. The eclipse March 12 in Virgo brings relief. It brightens your 9th house, ushering in elevated consciousness and freedom of expression. During the last days of winter, imported items, faraway places, and exotic cultures fascinate you. There is an awareness of how big the world is and how much it offers.

AQUARIUS



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

There is a zest for adventure. You are ready to experience all that life has to offer. Jupiter, the cosmic gambler, is near your ruling planet Uranus March 20-31. The March 24 eclipse in your 9th house makes alternative thinking appealing. You could enroll in a series of classes or join a safari. You're even more unpredictable than usual. April 1-27 the grounding influence of retrograde Mars in Virgo surfaces. You'll want to resolve tax or insurance matters and complete financial planning. It isn't a good time to encourage communion with the spirit world. Ignore ghost stories. Dwell on the tangible.

April 28 - May 12 Taurus planets affect your 4th house. Bring calmness and stability into your domestic environment. Add some earth tones to decor and fill an earthenware vase with natural grasses and pussy willows. May 13 your ruling planet Uranus turns retrograde. Through the end of the month you will realize how patterns guide your life. It's a good time to examine your roots and origins. Complete projects which have been dragging on too long.

May 27 - June 4 use fragrant oils and incense to create an atmosphere of beauty and pleasure. Accept invitations and plan a party. A combination of Venus and Jupiter energies make it one of the best times all year to encourage a new love or take a vacation. Let pleasure eclipse business and worry.

June 5-18 Mars accents Neptune in your 12th house. You will be in tune with those who are in need of solace and friendship. You relieve the loneliness and prob-

lems of others and win a new friend. The Full Moon June 20 on the eve of summer solstice sheds light on just how important you are to others. There can be important work within an organization that week. Your intuition is guiding you toward long-range goals—heed it.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

Accept with serenity what you can't change. June 21 - July 7 Cancer planets create a quincunx aspect in your 6th house of routine. Events you have no power over guide your days. Adapt and accept. Nutritious meals and vitamin supplements are invaluable just now. Your energy level is in a state of flux.

July 8-23 charming and charismatic individuals impress you. Venus makes strong aspects in your 7th house. Enjoy companions, but cherish your own accomplishments and identity as well. July 24 - August 12 you are more confident—Mars in your 9th house is supportive. Share your philosophical concepts, make appointments, and mail letters. There can be special sharing with grandparents or grandchildren near Lammas. August 13-17 numerous planets in fixed signs make it hard to struggle against the status quo. Let propriety and habit guide you. Others resent surprises. The Full Moon in your sign on August 18 lets you accept limitations while unveiling potentials. It's the start of a perfect time to study astrology and ultramodern technologies. You become a more effective, influential person as the month ends. Frustrations ebb.

September begins with an eclipse in your 8th house. Be aware of how financial moves made by others affect your spending power. If you probe, interesting but unsettling secrets come to light. If you don't want to know, don't ask from September 1-9. Mercury turns direct September 10. Truths are easier to accept. You can enjoy communication with a spirit guide or remember astral travels in your dreams through the last days of summer. The eclipse September 16 falls in your money sector. There could be demands for new skills at

your job. Be receptive if a new position is offered.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

From the autumnal equinox through October 7 Venus crosses the zenith of your birth chart. Image and reputation are highlighted. Success comes your way if you combine a friendly charm with professional expertise. The personal touch carries you a long way. October 8-19 Mercury moves with the Sun through Libra in friendly 9th house trine. Uranus turns direct. Your speaking and writing ability win admiration. It's a marvelous time to express ideas, travel, or pursue education. The mysticism of the Orient can bring new enlightenment.

Different energies are woven as All Hallow's Eve approaches. October 20-31 your 10th and 11th houses are highlighted. You long for success. Take pleasure in your work for its own sake, and the recognition will come. Friends help you reach your goals.

November 1-6 the Sun aspects Jupiter in Aquarius. You're optimistic, and thinking big. Dream and plan, but attend to important details and pay bills before risking savings. November 7-30 Mercury joins Pluto to sextile you. Gather information. Being well informed is the secret to success. You can learn much from friends. Direct conversations toward the future. Visualization and affirmations are a great asset now.

December 1-11 Capricorn planets align in your 12th house. Fantasy is more vivid than reality. Make your imagination an asset by applying creativity in constructive ways. Exotic and wild animals hold a special fascination. December 12-20 Venus enters your sign and conjoins Uranus. There is a sparkle to your social life. Try a change from the traditional when it comes to holiday plans. Homemade Yuletide crafts and greeting cards will please those on your gift list. A new romance takes you by surprise.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

The season begins with enthusiasm. Fiery Mars entered your sign just before the solstice where it will remain through January 24. You are dynamic and at the center of activity. Winter sports, group activity, and innovations in your approach to work will be in focus.

December 26 - January 9 Venus is retrograde in your sign. Be considerate and careful of others' feelings. You may sense a change of heart coming on in love. January 10-31 Jupiter is completing a year in Aquarius. You will realize how much you've grown this year. There is a new sophistication present. Quality is appreciated. It is time to finalize plans and put them into action. Seize opportunity by the Aquarian New Moon on January 28. Your birthday month opens with elusive and enchanting Neptune beginning a fourteen-year passage through your sign. Psychic sensitivities are opening. A creative outlet is healthy. Honesty is a must. Celebrate Candlemas with a special focus on all Neptunian myths and magic.

February 3-19 Mercury moves rapidly through Aquarius. Intellectual energy is at a peak. You think through problems and learn quickly. Travel is productive and life-enhancing. February 20-28 Pisces planets and the eclipse underline your 2nd house. You'll enjoy shopping for new possessions and discarding old ones. The financial situation is unsettled yet hopeful. Look at a new income opportunity.

March blows in with Venus moving toward Uranus and Neptune. Friends from another ethnic or economic background can give new meaning to love and friendship. Your taste in fashion, art, and entertainment is undergoing a metamorphosis. By March 11 you'll have interesting new people in your life. The eclipse March 12 affects your 8th house. You will examine death and rebirth metaphors in all parts of your life. Welcome closure as a route to new beginnings just before the equinox.

PISCES



SPRING - March 21 to June 20

Humor and patience are your best defense against a cantankerous individual. Mars is retrograde in your relationship sector through April 27. There may be a subtle feud to resolve as the new season begins. Exactly at the equinox, love magic can be a success as Venus completes a passage through your sign March 23. The lunar eclipse late that night highlights your 8th house of passions and desires. Fulfillment on many levels is promised by All Fool's Day.

April 2-15 Aries transits (including Saturn) in your 2nd house can tempt you to envy those who seem to be more well off financially. Concentrate on quality of life rather than being acquisitive. April 16-30 Venus and Mercury are sextile. Your mental attitude is brighter. Look at alternative solutions to old problems. Select reading material that is short and contemporary. May Eve finds Neptune, your ruler, turning retrograde on the very last degree of Capricorn in your 11th house of wishes. You will renege on new ideas and repeat the past. Select friends and ideals which will uplift you. When Mercury turns direct on May 8, the way is clearer and answers come.

May 9 - June 3 Venus enters your 4th house and strongly aspects your Sun. Use your artistic skills to make your residence more attractive. Background music played softly adds greatly to your hours at home. Encourage family members to entertain at the house. The Full Moon May 22 in your 10th house marks a deep emotional reaction to your work place. Release stress and

simplify your schedule as May ends. June finds a T-square aspect in mutable signs affecting you. It's an interesting but hectic cycle. A relative shares thoughts and feelings June 9-20 when Mercury moves through your 4th house. Family dynamics are changing near summer solstice. June is a perfect month to go on a cruise or visit the beach as Venus will brighten your 5th house of good times when it moves into Cancer on the 3rd.

SUMMER - June 21 to Sept. 22

From the solstice through July 7, Mercury and the Sun are favorable. Health improves if you take a break from work. Discussion of plans and feelings with your beloved bring new depth to most important bonds.

July 8-26 fire signs are abundant. You become more assertive about pursuing career aspirations and are unusually competitive. The world is at your feet if you control anger about financial matters and direct your attention to solving the problem. July 27-31 Venus in Virgo moves into your 7th house. You may enjoy dance or exercising to music during leisure hours. Share cuttings from favorite plants with a friend at Lammastide. Arrange a bundle of fragrant herbs in the dining room in honor of early harvest. August 1-13 your 6th house is strong. A clean, organized environment aids well-being. Clear away debris. August 14-31 Mars begins a favorable trine, but retrograde Mercury creates opposition. Be aware of how companions affect you; think for yourself. Those who disappointed you in the past might do so again. Acquire new knowledge and wander different pathways.

September 1 the Virgo eclipse affects relationships profoundly. A tie which has outlived its usefulness dissolves. You will prefer different company. Fairness is important. After the 10th Mercury's change to direct motion makes others easier to understand. You make decisions about partnerships. The September 16 eclipse in your birth sign promises personal discovery by the autumnal equinox. Be ready to move forward in every way. Dreams can be especially vivid September 16-22.

AUTUMN - Sept. 23 to Dec. 20

The season begins with a gentle Venus trine lasting through October 7. Search for love at a spiritual circle or in a place of higher learning. Travel to places of cultural worth and beauty. Foreign-born friends are good companions. October 8-15 Sagittarius planets cluster closely in your 10th house. You will be focused on your job and its potentials. Old positions could end to make way for the new. On October 15 the Full Moon falls near Saturn in your money sector. Through the end of the month finances are a very emotional issue. Live from day to day—it's hard to anticipate the long-range security picture. Provide for yourself before giving to others.

Halloween's New Moon in your sister water sign of Scorpio conjoins Mercury. Stress lifts; easier times are coming. The first week of November is good for travel and making decisions. November 8-21 the 9th and 11th house influences are positive. You are able to select goals and network with the right people. Inspirational reading material makes a difference in your life. November 22-30 Pluto is very influential. You will be aware of how important it is, in a crowded world, to function well within a group. Ecology and recycling assume new importance. Unusual weather affects your schedule—adapt.

December 1-11 four Capricorn planets aspect you. Opportunity comes through enlisting support. Political interests strengthen. You could get involved in community issues centering on life quality in the neighborhood. December 12-21 your 12th house sets the pace. Plan a quiet Yule celebration. Simple but fresh and natural decorations made from pine cones and evergreen boughs would be good. Peace and privacy help you regain equilibrium. On December 14 the Full Moon illuminates the needs of family members.

WINTER - Dec. 21 to Mar. 20, 1998

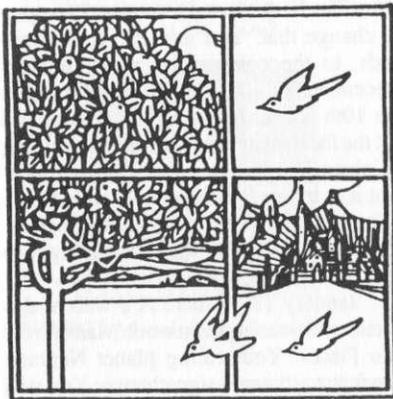
With the mysterious and aloof 12th house still strong, you feel a little detached from the mainstream of life just after the sol-

stice. The New Moon December 29 begins to change that. You are led, as the year ends, to the companions most suitable. December 30 - January 12 Mercury stirs the 10th house. Ignore office gossip, and get the facts straight at work before voicing opinions. You will be aware of how important it is to use language with care. Don't make impulsive changes regarding career. Hold on for a while, then you'll begin to reap the fruits of hard work.

January 13-31 there is a web of dynamic cosmic energies at work. Mars moves into Pisces. Your ruling planet Neptune edges toward a rare sign change. You will have more vitality and feel able to take charge of your life. Exercise has more appeal. Spirituality deepens. Psychology and other social sciences interest you. Your inner universe is beginning to expand and you are about to embark on a quest of self analysis.

February 1-3 Candlemas finds Mercury moving into a conjunction with Neptune. Valuable information surfaces, and you find your direction. Add decorative lights including unusual candles to the room where you spend your evenings. On February 4 Jupiter, your co-ruler, begins a year-long passage through your own birth sign. This marks the start of great hope and improvements. A new richness comes into your life. By the time of the Pisces solar eclipse February 26, you will see the specifics. Your birthday month is a memorable one, and you are on the brink of great progress. February 27 - March 7 Mercury moves with the Sun in your own sign. You are observant and alert; it's easy to learn. Journeys are quite productive, exceeding your expectations.

March 8-20 your 2nd and 12th houses are highlighted. This is a curious combination of focus on material security and mystical awakening. You are aware of different levels of reality unfolding, of life's many marvelous dimensions. The eclipse of March 12 in Virgo brings surprise discoveries about those to whom you're closest.



Window on the Weather

BY TOM C. LANG

Modern meteorology's rapid rise as a science during the second half of this century has been dazzling. Satellite photography chronicles a distant storm's every move while computers track complex weather patterns at lightning speed.

However, contemporary atmospheric scientists bemoan the lack of climatological data from prior periods of time. While this applies to numerical documentation of daily weather events, we do have access to material that relates climate to all aspects of human endeavor.

From Napoleon's failed advance on Russia, forestalled by bitter cold, to large-scale dislocations of entire civilizations from a single storm, weather events have changed the course of human history.

The ancients knew through observation the predictive quality of repetitive natural events. The quickening of

the wind, a change of sky color and texture with a sudden chill all were understood to interplay in a dance of change. The wise ones and the poets observed the weather and left us their thoughts on the subject.

SPRING

*Autumn arrives in the early morning,
but spring at the close of a winter day.*

—ELIZABETH BOWEN

MARCH, 1997—A sudden cold front that passes quickly during March seldom brings long-lasting rain or snow. Only icy mare's tails signal a change of air masses from springlike to frosty. Watch for thickening high cloudiness to foretell a wintry turn. A change of wind direction from northwest to northeast brings snowfall within six to 12 hours.

Scottish and Irish myths portray winter as a blue-faced hag, fierce and powerful, who displays her strongest force as the days lengthen toward spring.

The capacity for the atmosphere to produce violent storms peaks in March. The heating of land combined with lingering cold in the ocean and air create the potential for storm formation at mid latitude.



The continuing influence of the Pacific La Niña effect makes powerful eastern United States storms again likely with deep mountain snows and

windswept rain and snow near the coast. Western weather remains relatively tranquil.

*When the forest murmurs, and the
mountain roars, then close your win-
dows and shut your doors.*

—TRADITIONAL

APRIL, 1997—The central United States has by far the highest frequency of tornadoes in the world. Over a thousand of these violent whirling storms strike the United States in an average year. The "tornado alley" storms of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas are typically the most violent, often acquiring widths of a mile or more with damage paths many miles in length. Some specific geographical features are responsible for this high rate of activity.

The greatest concentration of tornadoes occur during April in the southern Great Plains. With the Gulf of Mexico being a source of tropical air, southerly winds blow north from this region through Oklahoma and Texas. At the same time, from southwest deserts the air flows aloft over this buoyant air mass and the atmosphere becomes unstable. The resulting rising air mass spawns tornado-producing thunderstorms during the warmest time of the day, usually between 4 and 8 P.M.

Conversely, coastal weather is usually tame during this month, with coastal cyclones confined to the Northeast and Pacific Northwest. Heavy snows will still fall in mountainous terrain, while southern California and Florida residents enjoy some of the finest weather of the year.

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.*

—T. S. ELIOT

MAY, 1997—May is the gentle month of spring; icy winds have retreated to the Arctic and coastal storms have vanished. Warm air covers much of the United States and snowpacks virtually disappear.

The jet stream still moves air masses in the North. Cold fronts spawn thunderstorms and infrequently a tornado with hail. This year's severe storms will be notable in the northern



Plains and eastern Rockies. Hailstorms may threaten near Denver, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City. Late spring snow is probable in the surrounding mountains.

The East will be unseasonably warm this spring, and the first 90-degree days occur in many major cities by the 15th. An all-day rain will only happen once or twice and do little to alleviate a springtime dry spell throughout the East.

Spring flowers bloom longer than usual in the southwestern desert. A brief but beneficial rainstorm will drench the San Francisco Bay area.

*Hard is the heart that loved
naught in May.*

—CHAUCER

SUMMER

Summer makes a silence after spring.

—VITA SACKVILLE-WEST

JUNE, 1997—Spring rains yield fine waterflows throughout the West, reducing the danger of seasonal wildfires. Snow may still clog some western mountain passes after Memorial Day; travelers . . . check ahead and exercise caution.

Three 90-degree days bring an early heat wave to St. Louis, Kansas City, and Memphis. Residents of Detroit, Buffalo, and Cleveland can expect severe storms often during the month. June remains relatively dry in the mid-Atlantic states with several cold fronts passing, bringing brief sporadic showers.

Texas no longer fears drought, and conversely, an established western storm track holds the threat of flooding rains.

Coastal fog frequently remains thick past noon in California as offshore high pressure strengthens.

*And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days.*

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

JULY, 1997—In the eastern United States, the summer of 1996 was one of the coolest on record. The temperature didn't reach 90 degrees from Washington, D.C. to Portland, Maine after the 20th of June, the first time that has happened in this century. The jet stream position, which coursed from the Pacific Basin into western Canada and south to the Gulf of Mexico, was par-



tially responsible. This formation allowed polar air to flow south, east of the Rockies, and was also the reason for two successive severe winters in this region. With the abatement of the western Pacific La Niña effect, this pattern should ebb. And history shows that successive years of one weather extreme are often followed by an opposed extreme, so we can expect warmth in East and cold, wet weather in the West.

Late-season snows are still possible in the highest peaks of Montana and Washington. Rivers will run high for the summer hikers in Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks.

Several severe weather outbreaks are likely in the eastern Great Lakes and New England, but near drought conditions will scorch the Ohio Valley south to the Carolinas.

*Some are weatherwise,
some are otherwise.*

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

AUGUST, 1997—Summer heat that usually begins to abate in August is often accompanied by thunderstorms, especially in the Northeast and Great Lakes regions. High winds, hail and an occasional tornado can become part of these storms. Southern thunderstorms are of longer duration, and localized flooding is often a peril. Flooding rains are particularly prevalent in mountainous terrain, including the southern Appalachians and southern Colorado Rockies.

Air pressure patterns are weak during August, and air mass changes are subtle. An observer may notice a cold or warm frontal passage as only a breath of wind with a slight change of temperature. An East Coast cold front will arrive as a whisper in the predawn hours, followed by a day of fog and a northeast wind.

Tropical storm and hurricane activity is confined to the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico in early August, but tropical systems will form off the coast of Africa by the 31st.

*I saw the spiders marching through the
air, swimming from tree to tree
that mildewed day
In latter August when the hay came
creaking to the barn.*

—ROBERT LOWELL



AUTUMN

*Days decrease, and autumn grows,
Autumn in everything.*

—ROBERT BROWNING

SEPTEMBER, 1997—The last two years of increased Atlantic hurricane activity is likely to persist. Historical records indicate that these storms conform to migratory routes that shift geographically with each decade. Not since the forties have so many hurricanes threatened the Eastern Seaboard, where some locations in the Carolinas and Georgia have seen their first direct

strike from a major hurricane in a half century. Wilmington, North Carolina, was devastated by two major hurricanes during the summer of 1996.

All families that live within hurricane-prone area should have an adequate storm preparation plan, including all coastal residents from Maine to Texas. The large build-up of shoreline property on Florida's Gulf Coast is particularly vulnerable. Life-threatening storm surges are greatest there because of the gradual deepening of the Gulf of Mexico. Deaths from storm surge and flooding rains far exceed those caused by wind associated with hurricanes. Increased tropical activity is likely to continue in these areas for the remainder of the decade.

It ain't a fit night out for man or beast.

—W. C. FIELDS

OCTOBER, 1997—October is the month that the Northern Hemisphere weather transits from a summer pattern of heat, humidity, and thunderstorms to wintertime. It is marked by a southerly moving jet stream which brings mountain snows to higher elevations as it crosses the West. Colorado and New Mexico receive their greatest annual snowfall beginning in mid October and extending through early winter. The cessation of La Niña will bring above-normal snowfall to this region in 1997.

Farther east, Indian Summer arrives by the third week, marked by balmy breezes and 70 degree temperatures. This will occur after all leaves have fallen and frost has laced window-panes.

A polar cold front advances only to the Carolinas by mid month and is accompanied by dry weather and only a refreshing breeze as the front passes. Little fog is noted near East Coast harbors but is occasionally thick from western New York State to Minnesota.

Brush fires run rampant in southern California before a late-month Pacific storm brings quenching rain.

*O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather.*

—HELEN HUNT JACKSON

NOVEMBER, 1997—Winter arrives apace, bringing early snow to much of the West. First snows are recorded in Denver, Minneapolis, and Bismark by the 10th. Sub-zero temperatures sweep through Wyoming, Montana, and Nevada by the second week. A treacherous ice storm slicks roadways in northern Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska during this period.

Weather in the East remains tranquil with only brief flurries notable in New York and Massachusetts, although lake-effect snows may be heavy once or twice in western New York and Pennsylvania. An ice storm is also a potential peril in the Northeast after Thanksgiving. However, a quick thaw follows with balmy southwest winds.

Predawn fog is long-lasting and thick throughout the South. Expect little sun for several days before noon in Atlanta and Charlotte.

Westswep gales are likely at least three times in the Pacific Northwest with a rare snowfall possible in Seattle.

*No shade, no shine,
no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers,
no leaves, no birds,
No vember!*

—THOMAS HOOD



WINTER

Every mile is two in winter.

—GEORGE HERBERT

DECEMBER, 1997—The weather pattern established in October and November foretells the severity of early winter. Observe the onset of weather pattern changes. Sharp or gradual, their duration determines the tenor of the season. Storms sweeping through the Great Lakes bring rain to the East Coast. A previous day's frosty morning is replaced by balmy rains. A southwest wind following a storm signals only a small drop in temperature. Any disturbance that follows within 48 hours of the first will probably produce no more than a light rain.

Beware of Arctic air arriving in late December on a northerly gale! A blizzard may follow with only two days' notice. An icy halo around the sun or moon foretells stormy weather within 18 hours.

Temperature drops will be sudden and severe in the Great Plains. While little snow falls with these "blue north-

ers," their arrival may disrupt Yule travel.

*The sun that brief December day
Rose cheerless over hills of gray,
And, darkly circled, gave at noon
A sadder light than waning moon.*

—JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER



JANUARY, 1998—Howling winds and sub-zero temperatures remind us that midwinter has arrived. January's icy Arctic blasts originate in Siberia, attain temperatures of -50 degrees, migrate across the polar ice cap, and slide south to the lower 48 states.

The coldest temperatures are reached in valleys through a process called "radiation cooling." Over a deep snow cover and with little wind, heat escapes the earth's atmosphere at a quick rate. Under these circumstances, temperatures frequently will be 20 degrees colder than the surrounding higher elevations. In extreme cases, ice needles or "frozen fog" will form in the predawn hours.

This year, the coldest Arctic outbreaks are likely to be felt in the high plains and mountainous West. A rare blizzard may threaten St. Louis and Kansas City, while Minneapolis stays below zero for a week.

The East Coast remains balmy, with snow changing to rain from Washington, D. C. to Boston during the third week. This is the much-heralded January thaw that lasts about a week but is

extended this year to at least 10 days during what will be a mild winter.

*If winter comes, can spring
be far behind?*

—SHELLEY

FEBRUARY, 1998—Even during the bleakness of a severe winter, a sudden turn can bring an early spring. Three years of harsh weather spurred speculation by pundits concerning a permanent climate change in the eastern United States. To this we say nonsense! Much as with darkness before dawn, wintry patterns often end with one last wave of snowy storminess before balmy breezes return warmth. This will probably be February's outcome.

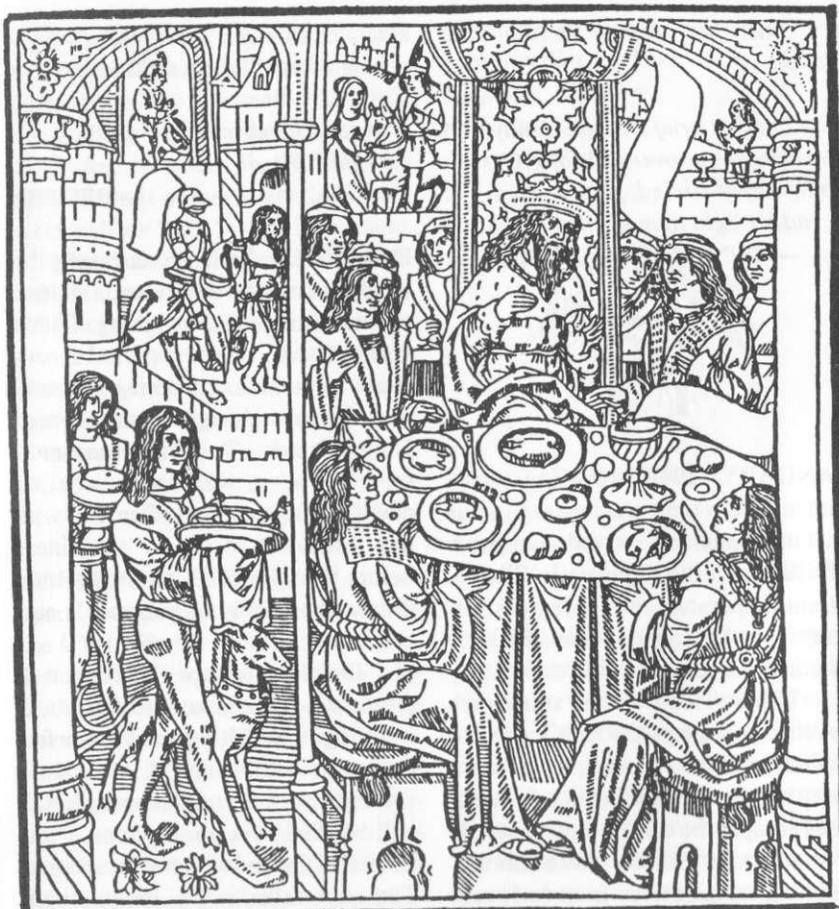
The storm track will retrogress to the eastern Great Lakes by mid month, resulting in a melting snowcover farther east as mild rains fall.

However, a late winter snowfall will be disruptive to residents of the Central Plains and western Great Lakes. The snowfalls in the mountainous Southwest will continue heavy with snow visible from the Los Angeles basin.

The Pacific Northwest will be colder and drier than normal. Florida stays warm and dry with one or two predawn thunderstorm outbreaks. Tornadoes are possible from Louisiana to northern Florida.

*There is no season such delight
can bring,
As summer, autumn, winter,
and the spring.*

—WILLIAM BROWNE



King Arthur and his Knights at the Round Table

Paris, 1506.

Knights of the Zodiac

Although the actual time period associated with King Arthur and Camelot was centuries earlier, the Arthurian Legends flourished during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The manuscripts we draw upon today in continuing the Camelot tradition were developed then. Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, published in 1485, is the most famous of these. There is a

rich tapestry of astrological themes in the Court of Arthur. The Round Table itself was symbolic of an astrology chart, while Arthur and Guinevere personified the polarity of the Sun and Moon. The Knights of the Round Table represented the twelve archetypes of the signs. There were more than twelve, most scholarship points to about 144, or twelve for each sign. The traits of

the signs help us to understand the roles of the principal knights. Here is a list to reflect upon.



Aries: Sir Gareth. The first knight to join Arthur, he was famous for his quick reactions, skill in combat, and bad temper.

Taurus: Sir Dinadan. He was a formidable and solid man at arms once roused.

Gemini: Sir Lionel and Sir Bors. These were twins or brothers; one loyal and good, one unreliable.

Cancer: Sir Kay. He was in charge of the kitchens, famous for culinary skill and crabby temperament.

Leo: Sir Gawain. This brave and flamboyant hero was a star in the popular tale involving the Green Knight.

Virgo: Sir Tristram. He became ill on his wedding night, was not happily married, and had trouble with his health when called upon to serve.

Libra: Sir Balin. He hesitated in making important decisions. In the matter of passing the death sentence on evil King Royn, this vacillation led to his undoing.

Scorpio: Sir Lancelot. This most powerful knight brought back the dead and fought with strength and skill unmatched. His passion for Guinevere was his infamous fatal flaw.

Sagittarius: Sir Percival. This wanderer had a special gift in communicating with animals.

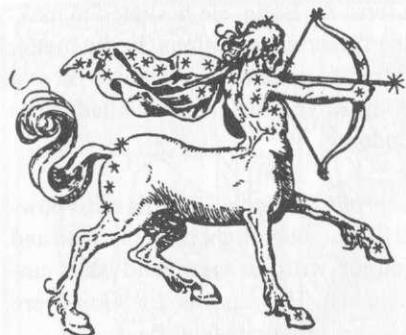
Capricorn: Sir Urry. He looked older than his years and was rejuvenated by Lancelot.

Aquarius: Sir Palomides. His popularity with the kings of Ireland and Scotland was evident in the many gifts and invitations they sent him.

Pisces: Sir Galahad. He was the only knight heavenly and pure enough to complete the quest for a lasting vision of the Holy Grail.

—DIKKI-JO MULLEN





NOSTRADAMUS

Almanacs date back to Roman times, but it was the invention of the printing press in the 15th century that brought them within everybody's reach. Barely a century later, they were so popular in Britain that it was estimated that one out of every three households was consulting one to guide their daily affairs.

Far and away the most popular on the European continent were the annual compendiums of predictions produced by Nostradamus, whose far-reaching prophecies are being disputed even today. If many seem at the very least ambiguous, some explanation may be offered by the seer's own comments in his preface to the second edition of *Centuries* which he dedicated to King Henry II: "The danger of the time, O Most Serene Majesty, requires that such hidden events be not manifested save by enigmatic speech."

The Inquisition was active in this era; and because many of his beliefs were heretical, he wrote in a sort of code to fool the clerical censors—a mixture of French, Greek, Latin, and Italian with anagrams, slight misspellings, and synonyms mixed in. Some of

his predictions, however, seem fairly clear:

*In the year 1999 and seven months
A great king of Terror comes
from the sky
To restore the king of Mongols
Before and after Mars reigns
at will*

Loosely interpreted, this has been taken to forecast the arrival of an unnamed leader and the outbreak of the Third World War which, says another quatrain, will last twenty-seven years.

Born in the French Provençal city of St. Remy on December 14, 1503 to a family of Jewish origin, Nostradamus and his family became Catholic converts after a 1488 edict by King Charles VIII that all must convert or lose their possessions. Tradition says that Michel de Notre Dame's ancestors were eminent physicians, although they may have been traders in Avignon, which in the late 14th century was the seat of the papacy. Indoctrinated in the mystical secrets of the Cabala as a child, he learned the rudiments of Greek, Latin, Hebrew, mathematics, and astrology from his grandfathers—both of whom were court physicians to King Rene—and at thirteen entered the local university.

By 1525, having studied medicine at Montpellier for three years, the twenty-one-year-old received a license to practice medicine, specializing in treating *le chabon*, a variant of the bubonic plague. One of his remedies was a compound of rose petals, cypress, cloves, lignum aloes, and dried

and powdered roots of iris and sweet flag. He was opposed to the more violent cures then in vogue such as blood-letting and purgatives.

While wandering for eight years through France and Italy as a doctor, he picked up some of the ancient techniques of prediction. On one occasion in Italy he is said to have greeted a young Franciscan monk as "His Holiness." The monk, former swineherd Felice Peretti, was in 1585 elected by the College of Cardinals to become Pope Sixtus V. This was long after Nostradamus' death.

At the age of forty-four, settling in Salon, France to concentrate on his writings, he married a young widow and equipped his upstairs study with books as well as astrological and occult instruments. Some of his neighbors, suspicious of his activities, harassed him by throwing stones at his house. Nevertheless, there was a constant stream of visitors asking for advice: girls trying to determine their future; farmers wanting predictions about the weather; unhappy lovers asking when the stars might favor reconciliation. His first almanac, in 1550, contained twelve quatrains (four-line verses) about the weather, agriculture, business, finance, and health tips for the coming year. One student of the quatrains, Le Pelletier, has noted that "they are a sort of . . . Tarot in verse, a cabalistic horoscope."

In 1555 Nostradamus published



NOSTRADAMUS
Detail from a portrait painted in 1562.

the first of his *Centuries*, the title referring to the one hundred quatrains in each volume. Sitting each night in his study gazing into a bowl of water on a brass tripod, he was able to see, as the water became cloudy, "the great and sad events, the prodigious and calamitous accidents" that will befall future generations.

Believers contend that some of Nostradamus' predictions have been validated by history. About Napoleon he wrote: "An Emperor will be born near Italy whose empire will cost France very dear. They will say of those he gathers around him that they are butchers rather than princes." This was more than one hundred years before Napoleon's birth in 1769. "The London Senate will put to death its king," he noted, a full century before





England's Charles I was condemned to death for high treason and executed in 1649. Summoned by Queen Catherine de Médicis to plot the horoscopes of the king and the royal children, Nostradamus showed, as if in a mirror or window, the fates of her children and predicted that King Henri would die an early death: "The young lion will overcome the older one / In a field of combat by a single duel." This later happened in a jousting match between the king and the Earl of Montgomery.

Nostradamus claimed to have developed a scientific system which allowed him to enter the future, though he left no such evidence. He is reported to have read several ancient Egyptian manuscripts before destroying them and owned a copy of *De Mysteriis Egyptorum* which Iamblichus wrote in the 4th century, an edition of which was produced in Lyons in 1547. His pupil and biographer Jean-Aymes de Chavigny described Nostradamus as "a man of slightly less than medium height, robust, cheerful, and vigorous. His brow was high and open, his nose straight and equal, and his eyes grey and usually gentle though in anger they seemed to be flaming. He had a severe, yet laughing face so that a great humanity was obvious even while he

was annoyed. His cheeks were ruddy even into old age, his beard was long and thick, his health good apart from complaints associated with age, and his senses acute. He had a good acute mind and understood easily; his judgment was subtle, his memory excellent . . . he thought a lot but spoke little . . . He slept only four or five hours a night, loved and praised freedom of speech, and had a joyful hearty laugh."

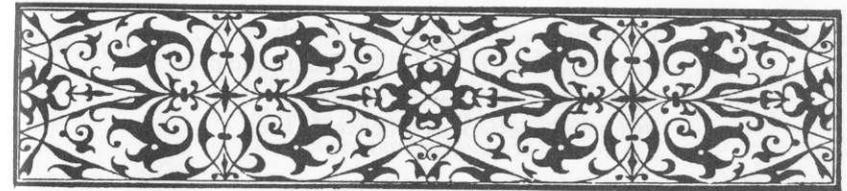
Nostradamus died of dropsy on July 2, 1566, knowing the time of his death well in advance. His tomb bears the inscription: "Here lie the bones of the most illustrious Michel Nostradamus. The only one, in the judgment of all mortals, worthy to write with a pen almost divine under the influence of the stars, of the future events of the entire world. He lived sixty-two years, six months and seventeen days. He died in Salon in the year 1566. Let posterity trouble not his repose."

His coffin was placed in the wall of a local church, and he left a warning that evil would befall anybody who opened and did not close it.

In 1700, the municipal authorities decided to renovate the tomb and opened Nostradamus' coffin. Inside they found a skeleton wearing a medallion: it was inscribed with the year 1700.

Countless editions of his prophecies circulated after his death. Translations, interpretations, and speculations followed in increasing numbers. Nostradamus was right on target when he declared:

*After my earthly death,
my writ shall do more than
when I was among the living.*



THE ORACLES OF NOSTRADAMUS

*A selection from the ten volumes
of Centuries, 1558.*

- Volume I.**
- 16 When Saturn is in Aquarius
And Sagittarius is ascendant
Disease, famine, and death by war
As the century approaches renewal
 - 48 When twenty years of the moon's reign pass
Seven thousand years, another will hold dominion
When the sun resumes its waning days
My prophecy will be fulfilled and finished
 - 63 The scourge passes, the world shrinks,
There is lasting peace, population increases,
One will travel by air, land, and sea
And wars will begin again and again
- Volume II.**
- 28 The greatest of the Prophet's surname
Will take Monday for his sabbath
He will wander far due to a troubled mind
Delivering a great people from oppression
 - 48 The great force will pass over mountains
Saturn in Sagittarius; Mars to Pisces
Poison hidden in the heads of salmon
The warrior chief hanged with cord
 - 70 The dart from heaven ends its circuit
Some die in mid-speech, a great killing
Stone in the tree, a proud nation humbled
Noise, a human monster, purged by expiation

Volume III. 2 The divine word will give to the substance
Heaven and earth, gold hidden in mystic deed
Body, soul, spirit, having all power
As much underfoot as is heavenly seen

34 When there is an eclipse of the Sun
The monster will be seen at noon
It will be interpreted otherwise
Unfortunate, for none will foresee it

Volume IV. 18 Some of the most learned in celestial science
Will be condemned by ignorant leaders
Punished by edict, hunted as criminals
Put to death wherever they are found

28 When Venus is covered by the Sun
A hidden form will be under the splendor
Mercury will expose them to the fire
By warlike noise it will be provoked

Volume V. 8 Unending fire will bring hidden death
Horrible and fearful within the globes
The fleet will destroy the city at night
The city will burn, the enemy pleased

32 Where all is well the Sun is good
The Moon is full, but ruin is near
From the sky your fortune changes
In the same state as the seventh rock

75 He will rise high, more to the right
He will remain seated on the square stone
Towards the South, facing to the left
The crooked staff in hand, his mouth shut

Volume VI. 10 In a little while temples of colors
Of white and black intermixed
Red and yellow withdraw from them
Blood, land, plague, famine, fire, destroy them

34 The invention of aimed flying fire
Will greatly trouble the besieged chief
There will be much sedition within
The abandoned will despair

Volume VII. 2 By Mars, Aries will not give battle
The soldiers are surprised at night
On land, Black and White hiding indigo
Traitors seen under feigned shadow

14 They will expose false topography
The tomb urns will be opened
Sects and holy philosophy multiply
Black for white, new for old

Volume VIII. 14 Great credit and abundant gold and silver
Honor will be blinded by lust
The offense of the adulterer will be known
It will bring great dishonor

41 A fox will be elected saying nothing
Playing saint publicly, feathering his nest privately
Afterwards he will suddenly tyrannize
His foot will be on the throats of the greatest

Volume IX. 11 The just will be executed
Publicly and in secret
Great pestilence comes to the place
So that the judges have to flee

44 Leave, leave Geneva, all of you!
Saturn will change gold into iron
Raypoz will kill all who oppose
The heavens show signs beforehand

48 The great maritime city of the Ocean
Environment of marshes and crystal
In winter solstice and in spring
Will be tried by a fearful wind

Volume X. 10 Stained by murder and many adulteries
A great enemy of the whole human race
Worse than his grandfather, uncles, their fathers
In iron, fire, water, bloody and inhuman

42 Humane realm and angelic offspring
Causes lasting peace and unity
War subdues under its control
Peace is maintained for a long time



THE WAY OF THE MOON

*A New Moon rises with the Sun,
Her waxing half at midday shows,
The Full Moon climbs at sunset hour,
And waning half the midnight knows.*

NEW	1998	FULL	NEW	1999	FULL
January 28	January 12	January 17	January 17	January 1/31	
February 26	February 11	February 17	February 17	February None	
March 27	March 12	March 17	March 17	March 2/31	
April 26	April 11	April 15	April 15	April 30	
May 25	May 11	May 15	May 15	May 30	
June 23	June 9	June 13	June 13	June 28	
July 23	July 9	July 12	July 12	July 28	
August 21	August 7	August 11	August 11	August 26	
September 20	September 6	September 9	September 9	September 25	
October 20	October 5	October 9	October 9	October 24	
November 18	November 4	November 7	November 7	November 23	
December 18	December 3	December 8	December 8	December 22	

Life takes on added dimension when you match your activities to the waxing and waning of the Moon. Observe the sequence of her phases to learn the wisdom of constant change within complete certainty.



As Others See Us

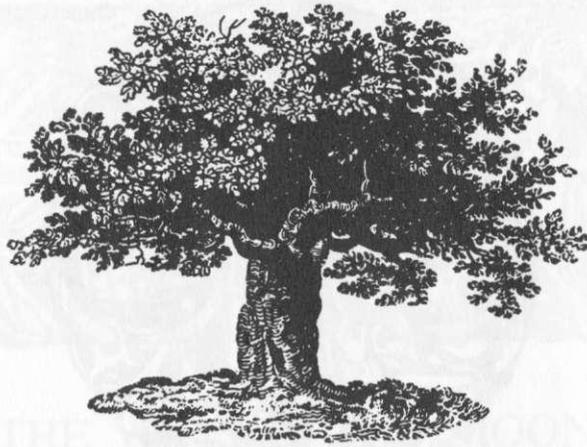
Hollywood's most recent portrayal of witches comes to us in a likeable and entertaining film called *The Craft* in which four high-school outcasts turn to magic as a means of improving their social position. Bonnie, Rochelle, and their punk-rock leader Nancy dabble in witchcraft without much luck until they find a critical fourth witch in Sarah, the new girl at school. The girls' trips to the occult bookstore begin to pay off when they successfully perform a levitation together, due in no small part to the most recent addition to the group, who is a natural witch. A moral divide between the young witches becomes apparent from the casting of their first spells: while Sarah, Bonnie, and Rochelle seek relatively petty social rewards, Nancy (wonderfully played by Fairuza Balk) goes straight for the spiritual jugular

and invites the powerful spirit Mamon to inhabit her.

Sarah soon realizes that her friends have no intention of using witchcraft merely for subtle personal empowerment and earns their hatred by quitting the group. Led by the increasingly malevolent Nancy, her former friends try to kill her in a classic showdown between good and evil, replete with special effects. The refreshing thing about this battle is that both sides are witches, rather than the expected scenario of "misguided" witches being forced to see the error of their ways by good old conventional types.

The film is a bit predictable, but its fine performances and special effects make it a lot of fun nonetheless—and best of all, when the dust clears, a true witch is still standing.

—JEAN MARIE WALSH



THE CELTIC TREE CALENDAR

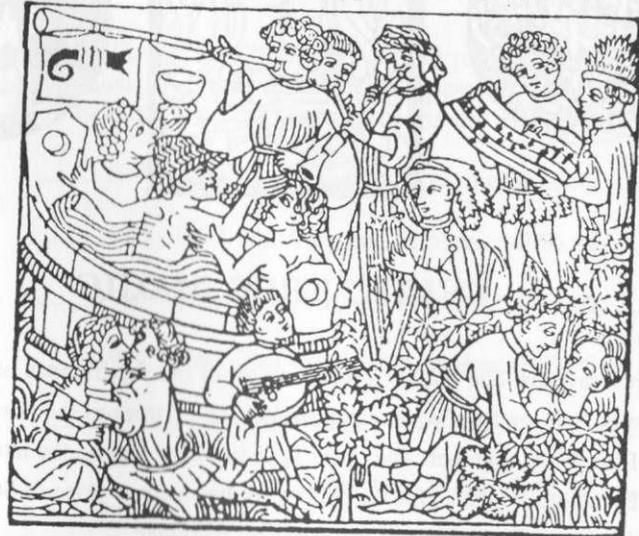
<i>Beth</i> (Birch)	December 24 to January 20
<i>Luis</i> (Rowan)	January 21 to February 17
<i>Nion</i> (Ash)	February 18 to March 17
<i>Fearn</i> (Alder)	March 18 to April 14
<i>Saille</i> (Willow)	April 15 to May 12
<i>Uath</i> (Hawthorn)	May 13 to June 9
<i>Duir</i> (Oak)	June 10 to July 7
<i>Tinne</i> (Holly)	July 8 to August 4
<i>Coll</i> (Hazel)	August 5 to September 1
<i>Muin</i> (Vine)	September 2 to September 29
<i>Gort</i> (Ivy)	September 30 to October 27
<i>Ngetal</i> (Reed)	October 28 to November 24
<i>Ruis</i> (Elder)	November 25 to December 22

December 23 is not ruled by any tree for it is the "day" of the proverbial "year and day" in the earliest courts of law.

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