

**October 2000 Celestial Timings**  
by Carolyn Sky Dancer

In special memory of Miriam D'Achille  
Born April 7, 1972 Died September 21, 2000

**OM MANI PADME HUM HRIH**

Birth, life, death is a natural repeating cycle. At Winter Solstice, at the New Moon, at the dawn of each day, a new cycle is birthed, it lives, fulfills its purpose and passes on, making way for a new cycle to birth again. At Autumnal Equinox we crossed the threshold into the death phase of this yearly cycle. Synchronistically, the week before Public Television stations around the country showed a powerful series hosted by Bill Moyers on becoming more conscious about the death process. Little did I know death would visit my life so closely and bring this all more fully into my own experience. I am deeply grateful for the gift Miriam's death has brought to those who knew her through her life and through her death. Her death is a reminder of the preciousness of life and the beauty death brings when we embrace it with love, compassion and understanding.

My experience with death and dying was taught me that one of the greatest gifts we can offer to the dying, or those who are dead, are our conscious prayers honoring and celebrating the gift of life and death. When my mother passed away two years ago I used the following prayer that I adapted from The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying by Sogyal Rinpoche. The instructions and original prayer are found on page 215. I again offer this prayer for Miriam and all beings alive in this world or passed on to the next world, reminding us to embrace all of life, including death, knowing this is where wholeness exists. Sogyal Rinpoche says this prayer is "the most essential practice we can do to prepare for our own death, and it is the main practice I teach my students for helping their dying friends and relatives, and their loved ones who have already died."

Envisioning and invoking a presence of light embodying truth, wisdom, love and compassion (i.e. Kwan Yin, Mother Mary, Jesus, Buddha, Healing Angels, etc.) pray thus:

*(Since this prayer came to me during my mother's death process I use the image of the Divine Mother. Her presence often shows up for me as Our Lady of Guadalupe surrounded by radiant light, standing in the Portal between the worlds. This is an image that comes easily to me, but may not be an image that comes easily to you. Please use any image that inspires your own personal connection to the divine. There is no wrong way to do this prayer when your intent is pure. I relanguaged this prayer maintaining the first person expression, if you are saying it for another person you can insert their name. You also may feel inspired to relanguage this prayer in a way that resonates more fully for you.)*

**Holy Divine Mother**

**Through your blessing, grace, and guidance,  
through the power of the light that streams  
from you:**

**All my negative karma, destructive emotions,  
obscurations and blockages are purified and  
transformed.**

**I know myself forgiven for all the harm I have  
ever thought or done.**

**I accomplish this profound practice of conscious  
death and surrender (Phowa), and die a good  
and peaceful death benefiting all beings, in all  
realms and dimensions through out time and  
space and beyond. And through the triumph of  
my conscious death, a new Earth is birthed into  
a Golden Age of love, joy, beauty, harmony,  
peace, plenty, and Sacred Union with all that is.**

**I give thanks this is done and this is so and all  
Heaven and Earth rejoice. Blessed Be!**

After you have said the prayer another step is to notice the rays of light radiating out from the heart of the divine presence you have invoked, seeing these rays touch you (or the person who is dying or dead) as they cleanse and purify your being filling the world with this light.

For those interested in engaging the conscious death process for themselves, or are assisting someone in dying, or know of someone who has recently passed from this world, this is a prayer worth saying daily. When I first said this prayer to my Mother she was actively dying, she had not spoken or moved in many hours. Her eyes were fixed open and could not be shut, but she found the strength to squeeze my husband's hand as if to say yes, Yes, YES!!! The story of her conscious and miraculous death can be found on her Memorial Web Site at [www.jcau.com/merilyn](http://www.jcau.com/merilyn)

**October Night Sky**

The October Night Sky has many exciting features worth noting for those who are consciously deepening their connection and relationship with the Great Above. The month begins with the waxing crescent Moon passing through the gateway stars of Zuben Algenubi and Zuben Alshamali in the constellation of the Scales (a.k.a. Libra). These stars are currently marking the cross-quarter between the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice. This means at the astrological cross-quarter which occurs Nov 6, 7, and 8 the Sun is rising along the ecliptic (the path the planets travel) in the area marked by these stars. As I have mentioned in previous Celestial Timings the feeling I get is these stars currently act as a between the worlds gateway, because the seasonal cycle now aligned with these stars is the point in the year when the veils between the worlds are thinnest and we celebrate and honor

those who have passed from this life to the next. To locate this area of the sky, check out where the crescent Moon is October 1. The Moon will have just passed through the gateway stars and will be located near the head of the Scorpion.

Venus is also fast approaching the gateway of Zuben Algenubi (15 Scorpio) and Zuben Alshamali (19 Scorpio) passing through Oct 5-14. Mercury is entering the gateway on Oct 11 and is stationing retrograde Oct 18 at 16 Scorpio. Mercury remains in the portal through October 26 and will return to the portal in November. (See Mercury Retrograde later in article). The stars of the Scales work with the energies of balance and justice (what just is) and the wisdom and teachings of what we perceive are polarities, such as day/night, life/death, good/bad, rest/activity, sufficient/insufficient, black/white sacred/profane, easy/difficult, simple/complicated, etcetera. There is also a sense of working with natural law (or cosmic law) and human rules or laws, finding the balance and wisdom of how these laws ideally support the full experience of our divinity even in this dense dimension of life. Mercury's extended journey through this area of the sky highlights these mysteries and asks us to ponder how they relate to our own life experience and how we are consciously co-creating our reality?

The crescent Moon is located just above Antares, the heart of the Scorpion, on Oct 2 and Venus reaches this area Oct 26. This is the area of the sky where Pluto and Chiron are also transiting above Antares, but not visible to the naked eye. Jupiter is retrograding towards Aldebaran (10 degrees Gemini) and will reach exact opposition to Pluto on Oct 13 at 1:24 am MST. Jupiter acts to expand the Shamanic energies of [Pluto and Chiron](#), as well as expanding the energies of Antares, guardian of the west and Aldebaran, guardian of the east. Antares, heart of the Scorpion and Aldebaran, eye of the Bull are inviting us to tune into their mysteries and to develop a stronger relationship with them at this time as they meet in council with the transiting planets passing by them in the sky this month. The Scorpion is low in the southwestern sky as the sky darkens after sunset, sinking lower and lower as the month progresses. Retrograde Saturn is rising about three hours after Sunset and is located just below and to the left of the Pleiades. Jupiter rises shortly after Saturn, to Saturn's lower right near the bright red fixed star Aldebaran. Antares and Aldebaran form an axis to multi-dimensional realms. The planetary activations of this axis are potent initiations into the deeper mostly forgotten mysteries of our multi-dimensional being. These planetary activations feel like the opening of this starry axis or wormhole that is helping to facilitate an accelerated experience of wholeness. This line-up of planetary and starry energies is extremely rare as I mentioned in the [Aug, 2000 Celestial Timings](#). Awareness of this potent opportunity and willingness to work consciously with these star beings and planets as they meet in council helps to ground these mysteries within our own beings and the Great Below.

Attuning through asking questions is immensely helpful. It corresponds to the biblical suggestion that if we ask we shall receive. What do these planetary alignments mean for us individually and collectively? What is rising and what is setting? What are we birthing into this reality and what is moving between the worlds? Looked at another way we could say we are between the worlds, between the Old Earth and the New Earth. The old is complete and the new is not yet formed. It is up to us to be alert to these unfolding mysteries and how to consciously co-create with them by following our inner guidance and asking questions.

### Mercury Retrograde in Scorpio

Mercury symbolizes the alchemical magic of the mind, how we process information, how we perceive our reality and how we

communicate. Mercury moves fast, completing its year, or one circuit around the Sun, in 88 days. From Earth we experience one cycle of Mercury in about 115 to 120 days, three times during one of our years. Mercury's speed is linked to the quickness of the mind. Our minds, our thoughts, our perceptions are not necessarily limited by time and space. Our thoughts can take us beyond these boundaries in an instant. Mercury is the trickster, the magician, the alchemist, the one who knows how to work with the hidden forces of nature. Mercury assists us in exploring the realms of magic and mystery, while keeping us on our toes through its trickster antics. Napoleon Hill, author of [Think and Grow Rich](#) summed up one version of Mercury type wisdom when he said, "I am not who you think I am. I am not who I think I am. I am who I think You think I am."

From the perspective of the Earth-based observer Mercury retrograde appears to reverse directions in the sky. Astronomically, planets do not really reverse directions, they only appear to do so in relationship to the Earth. However, the appearance of this phenomenon affects our So Below reality. What we observe in the sky is the planet retracing over the same star patterns it has just crossed, crossing the same stars three times. Our So Below experience when Mercury goes retrograde is a reflection of the As Above phenomenon taking place in the sky. Mercury slows down, reverses direction, slows down again, and returns to a direct motion, much like a pendulum. Robert Wilkinson says in his book [A New Look At Mercury Retrograde](#), that this timing is an opportunity for us to witness magic revealing itself. When the magician slows down we have an opportunity to witness how s/he performs magic. The invisible becomes visible, the unknown becomes known. It is a time for fully exploring the magic and mystery of life in a way that is not always available to us. This timing, if worked with consciously, is an opportunity to experience and understand exactly how magic works.

**Mercury goes retrograde on October 17 at 16 Scorpio, conjuncts the Sun on October 30 at 7 degrees Scorpio and goes direct on Nov 7 at Zero Scorpio.** Mercury retrograde in Scorpio draws our attention to the erotic aspects of the mind and how we feel about what we believe. What do we passionately believe and feel is true? Remember, Mercury is stationing retrograde in the gateway formed by Zuben Algenubi and Zuben Alshamali representing the balance point between yin and yang, male and female, Heaven and Earth. Again this is a reminder of the importance of balance, of sacred union within ourselves and in our world. When we are balanced we have greater access to our own star gate within, to the many realms and dimensions of our personal reality. Whatever is not in alignment with the unfolding mysteries surfaces for processing and clearing. Mercury Retrograde is a notorious timing when things glitch, communication breaks down and things don't always turn out the way we expect them too. However, if we can relax and release our attachments to outcome, then this timing carries wonderfully magical and creative energy, inspiring insights, understanding and wisdom.

### October Highlights

**Oct 1, Sun, Moon passes through the gateway stars**, and is near the head of the Scorpion after sunset.

**Oct 2, Mon, The crescent Moon is located just above Antares**, the heart of the Scorpion. and Venus reaches this area Oct 26.

**Oct 3, Tues, Mars (10 Virgo) squares Pluto (10 Sagittarius) at 4:55 pm.** This is likely to be an intense combination of energies initiating and activating a deeper connection to the synthesis of the mysteries of sacred truth. If we have fears around the core essence of the truth of who we are, those fears are likely to surface in forms that are scary, even terrifying. Honoring, acknowledging and embracing these fears

with love helps to free the energies held within these fears, facilitating a release, even a death of what no longer serves our divine nature. This creates a freedom that allows the true, pure essence of our divine nature to find its fullest possible expression. I see this as a process of accepting these fears without judgment, embracing them, thanking them for the gifts and wisdom they have brought and loving them free. This activation is occurring for the first couple of weeks of October through the Aries Full Moon window. (See October 13.)

**Oct 4, Wed, Moon enters Capricorn at 2:42 am** marking the intersection point of the Milky Way and the ecliptic where the Sun is currently rising at Winter Solstice and is alerting us to the turning of a 26,000 year age. See [A Shamanic Look At The Turning Of The Ages](#) by Daniel Giamario on the articles page of the web site or in [The Shamanic Astrology Handbook](#) for more detailed information. Also today **Mars (11 Virgo) squares Jupiter (11 Gemini) at 12:28 pm MST.** See Oct 4

**Oct 8, Sun, Mars (13 Virgo) square Chiron (13 Sag) at 4:23 am.** See Oct 4

**Oct 13, Friday, Aries Full Moon (20 degrees Aries) at 1:52 am** and Jupiter and Pluto reach opposition at 11 degrees Gemini/Sagittarius. Mars has added its own activating energies to this opposition since the beginning of this month. The Aries Full Moon energy suggests it is time to fully commit to this transformational process, finding the courage to go deep within and connect with the spontaneous wisdom and innocence necessary to fully embrace this process.

**Oct 15, Sun, features three significant events.** *Neptune (3Aquarius47) stations direct at 7:13 am.* This symbolizes a time when the visions and dreams of Neptune have an opportunity to go forward and move more fully into manifest form. *Retrograde Saturn returns to the sign of Taurus at 5:46 pm, and the waning Moon conjuncts Saturn (29 Taurus) at 11:17 pm.* Saturn has returned to Taurus providing us with another opportunity to again work consciously to bring the pleasure paradigm more solidly into form.

**Oct 16, Mon, the Moon conjuncts Jupiter (11 Gemini) at 5:42 pm MST.** This is a good time to get a sense of where Jupiter and Saturn are in the sky in the late evening. By the time the Moon and Jupiter rise tonight, the Moon will have moved just passed Jupiter, but still helps to mark this area of the sky. This will be visible about 3 and ½ hours after Sunset on both Oct 15 and 16.

**Oct 18, Wed, Mercury goes retrograde at 6:42 pm** (See Mercury Retrograde section.) Venus (29 Scorpio) opposes Saturn (29 Taurus) at 6:46 pm MST and Venus enters Sagittarius at 11:18 pm MST. It will be interesting to notice what this day feels like with Mercury going retrograde and the Venus/Saturn full Moon type energy in Taurus. The energy of the Love Goddess is encountering the Elder, the wise one, the grandmother who carries embodies the feminine principle and knows how this energy brings love into manifest form. See August 2000 Timings (Aug 9) for further explanation of Saturn.

**Oct 24, Mon, Moon conjuncts Mars (24 Virgo) at 12:59 am.** The third Moon/Mars conjunction since Mars rose as a morning star in August. (See web site articles page for more info.)

**Oct 26, Thurs, Uranus (16Aquarius53) goes direct.**

**Oct 27, Fri, Scorpio (4 degrees) New Moon at 12:58 am.** Venus is conjunct Antares during this New Moon window adding potency to what is being conceived in the deep mysteries and truths of Antares, as well as the deep mysteries of Scorpio finding the Sun and Moon near the fixed star Kambalia in the Virgin Priestess. This fixed star has been linked with imagery of penetrating secret knowledge and has its root word linked to Shambala one of the words used to describe Heaven on Earth. The planetary alignment of May, 2000 was a seeding of this concept in a new Earth form. [See May, 2000 article on web site.](#)

**Oct 28, Sat, Venus conjunct Pluto (11 Sag) at 8:32 pm.** This is an opportunity to visually connect with the area of the sky Pluto is transiting. Venus here is reminiscent of the story of Pluto's abduction of Peresphone. Venus often thought of as Queen of Heaven and Goddess of Love is meeting up with Pluto, King of the Underworld and God of Wealth. It is now time for the feminine principle to go deep within and face her fears and misconceptions around her creative expression.

**Oct 29, Sun, Retrograde Mercury conjuncts the Sun (7 Scorpio) at 7:09 pm** symbolizing the beginning of a brand new Mercury cycle in the passionate depths of Scorpio. **Moon conjuncts Pluto (11 Sagittarius) at 10:32 pm.** This again marks the area of the sky where Pluto is allowing us to connect with the stellar images near Pluto, even though we can't see Pluto with our naked eye.

**Oct 30, Mon, Moon conjuncts Venus (13 Sagittarius) at 2:33 am and Moon conjuncts Chiron (15 Sagittarius) at 6:27 am.** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> gate or Venus Moon conjunction since Venus became an evening star in July. The 4<sup>th</sup> gate symbolizes the 4<sup>th</sup> chakra, the retrieval of Inanna's breast plate symbolizing her ability to truly love herself and others.

**Oct 31, Tues, Venus conjuncts Chiron at 9:42 pm MST. Moon goes into Capricorn at 11:01 am** marking the intersection point of the Milky Way and the ecliptic where the Sun is currently rising at Winter Solstice and is alerting us to the turning of a 26,000 year age. See [A Shamanic Look At The Turning Of The Ages](#) by Daniel Giamario on the articles page of the web site or in [The Shamanic Astrology Handbook](#) for more detailed information.

Jessie E. Anyani reminds us in her book the Lineage Codes of Light that "...Earth is but a reflection of the heavens..." and it is through our conscious awareness, it is through what we remember and dream, it is through our conscious reconnection to the relationship of Earth and Sky, that we birth the New Heaven and the New Earth uniting them in sacred union with all life creating a golden age of peace and love! And so it is!

#### Upcoming events:

[Mandala Mysteries Playshop](#) **Combing Shamanic Astrology with Sacred Art**, Tucson Arizona, Saturday Oct 14, 2000 from 9:30 to 4:00 pm in the Aries Full Moon Window, with Carolyn Brent, To-Ree-Nee Kaiser, and Ursela Guara. This all day playshop will activate your inherent knowing of the twelve mystery schools of life, through Shamanic Astrology, guided mediation, art and movement, and a willingness to allow these mysteries to teach us in the moment. No previous knowledge of art or astrology is necessary. Cost is \$77 (plus \$7 for art supplies) register by Oct 10. Space is limited to 10-12 participants. Contact Carolyn to register or for more information, info below.

**Saturday, December 2, 2000 [Shamanic Astrology Level 1 Transit Class](#)** with Carolyn Brent in Tucson, Arizona. Exploring the transit and return cycles indicating the initiations and timings for the individual and for the collective, with a look at the upcoming cycles for the year 2001. 12:30 – 4:30 PM Cost is \$44. Space is limited to 12-14 participants. Contact Carolyn to register or for more information, info below.

*Carolyn is available for personal readings and can be reached at, (520) 744-0506 Fax (520) 744-6923, and e-mail: carolyn@ShamanicAstrology.com Please visit The Shamanic Astrology Web Site at: <http://www.shamanicastrology.com/> where you may sign up to receive these timings via e-mail for no charge.*