

## August, 2001 Celestial Timings

...Offer the warmth of your love as a blessing for those who are damaged and unloved. Send that love out into the world to people who are desperate, to those who are starving, to those who are trapped in prison, hospitals, and into the brutal terrains of bleak and tormented lives.

When you send that love out from the bountifulness of your own love, it reaches other people.  
This love is the deepest power of prayer.

~John O'Donohue *Anam Cara A Book of Celtic Wisdom*

With all the happenings in the archetypal arena of Leo, it is a reminder of the power of love as the most potent healing tool we have. "Love heals everything!" came to me as a written dreamtime confirmation last year. The Leo mysteries focus on the power of self-love, self-acceptance, self-approval, and self-confidence. The radiant power of love, especially self-love is the basis of every golden age. Healing the wounds of shame and unworthiness within ourselves is one of the greatest gifts of liberation we can receive and give to life. The transformational cauldron of change is working intensely at a deep cellular level providing us with the alchemy necessary to transform the wounds of our past into the medicine and gifts of the present. Loving self, loving life, loving the experience of love and life are keys to liberating the limiting beliefs that have enslaved our minds and our hearts until now. It is vital that we each take responsibility to choose love, and choose to love ourselves enough to stay present with this intense alchemical process intended to transform our world into a Golden Age of peace, plenty and illumination as prophesied by the Hopi.

**Week of Jul 27- Aug 2** The Scorpio [First Quarter Moon](#) is directly overhead the evening of Jul 27. This waxing half full Moon phase represents the balance between light and dark and is the most visible growth phase of the Moon. This is the best time of the Moon cycle to put our ideas and plans into action, and marks the Moon phase intended to bring our conscious awareness to the threshold of experiential accelerated growth. Each night until Aug 3 the Moon increases in light appearing closer and closer to the Eastern Horizon at Sunset. Aug 3 the Full Moon (in Aquarius) is rising in the East closest to the time the Sun (in Leo) is setting in the west depending on your eastern and western horizon lines.

**Aug 1, Wednesday.** Venus enters Cancer today crossing and further activating the already super charged Summer Solstice eclipse point. Venus remains in Cancer until Aug 26 or 27 depending on your time zone. The archetypal leading edge of the feminine principle expressing through Cancer is that of the great mother. As Venus travels through Cancer, she will be discovering how these energies serve the overtone of [Venus in Aries](#) that includes expressions as the wild amazon warrior and fierce protector. The Great Mother is calling our attention to the kind of self-care and self-nurturing that is liberating to our essential authentic self-expression. The Void of Course Moon in Capricorn also speaks to this timing as being aligned with taking time to rest, relax and allowing space for inner reflection.

**The August Cross-Quarter also known as Lughnassadh: (harvest and victory)** *Lugh was the Irish Sun God and was also known as 'Samildanach' which means 'many-skilled'. Thus the celebration in his honour involved the demonstration of prowess in the skills attributed to him both as a warrior and as a craftsman. In the more recent Celtic table of festivals, Lughnassadh (pronounced Loo-nuh-suh) was celebrated with a fortnight of contests and games, of exhibitions of skill and strength. In the Celtic calendar, this festival was known as the Games of Lugh and would begin on the eve of August 1st in the Northern Hemisphere (February 1st in the Southern Hemisphere). Lugh represents a newer phase of development in the mythology of Ireland. He was*

*apparently introduced to the Celtic pantheon around the time of Christ. His coming marks the rising ascendancy all across Britain, Europe and the Mediterranean of the male gods of the Sun over the Sun Goddess known to the people of the ancient world. Originally, this Lugh's feast would have been a festival of ripened grain, celebrating the Mother's bounty just as Oimelc celebrates her power to give life or Bealtaine celebrates her passion or Samhain celebrates her power to live through death to new life. But, how the grain festival must have been traditionally celebrated has been lost beneath the mantle of two weeks of games and contests in honour of Lugh.* By Neil Giles  
<http://www.astrology.com/celtfire.html>

**Aug 2, Thursday,** The Moon changes signs approximately every 2 and ½ days. Tonight the Moon moves from Capricorn to Aquarius, but most of today the Moon remains void of course in Capricorn. This is the archetypal energy associated with the elders, the wise and ancient ones, the grandmothers and grandfathers, who know the rules, who know how spirit descends into matter and how to get things done for the greatest benefit and good of all. Moon in Capricorn is usually an excellent time for handling details and getting more organized, however during this void of course time tuning into our sense of inner organization is most effective now and then the outer details fall more easily into place.

Also today Mercury (7 Leo) opposes Neptune (7 Aquarius). Neptune's job is to bring in the new visions and the new dreams. Mercury is the transformational messenger. This is a timing calling us to pay attention to what new messages are coming in that support the new dreams? We are the dreamers, dreaming the dream onward. Consciously engaging the dreaming process empowers us to co-create our true heart's desires. Unconscious dreaming leads to illusions, self-deception and unrealized dreams. Remembering to actively and consciously dream is vital to co-creating heaven on earth. This is not a doing process, rather it is about allowing ourselves the space to dream our most cherished dreams and then tuning into the guidance that naturally comes when we commit to truly living them.

**Week of Aug 3 – 10** This week features a [Full Moon](#) symbolizing the fulfillment, or fruition, of the seeds planted at the New Moon. New Moon seeds may have different maturity cycles. Some seeds may take merely weeks to mature, others may take months or even years. Each Full Moon reminds us of the seeds we may have coming to maturity, to their fullness, to the place where the fruits or gifts are received. The Moon begins to wane this week representing the dissemination of the gifts received at the Full Moon. Once each year the Moon is Full in Aquarius emphasizing the cosmic overview and the revolutionary cutting edge ideas that bring evolutionary change.

**Aug 3, Friday.** The Aquarius [Full Moon](#) transmits the mysteries of the cosmic revolutionary. This energy is committed to its own unique path of self-expression, questioning what is and not settling for the limitations of the status quo. This is a good time to step back for a good look at the big picture, and make changes where needed. This Full Moon is also accessing the mysteries and potency of the Neptune/Mercury opposition that was exact yesterday assisting in the dreaming process that is intended to guide our next step towards living those dreams.

According to ancient ways of determining “*Lughnassadh*” “Lammas” or the cross-quarter celebration between Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox, this Full Moon marks that celebration. (See [Aug 7](#) for more details)

**Aug 4, Saturday,** Well within the potency of the Aquarius [Full Moon](#) window, the Moon is also passing by Uranus, the planetary ruler of the Aquarian archetypal mysteries, adding to the potential recipe for unpredictable, unplannable, unknowable events, that take us in new directions or give us new insights, if we are open to the experience. If we are not open to the changes seeking expression through us, events become more and more challenging giving us more and more opportunities to surrender. It is easier to simply surrender to the process of change, trusting in its inevitability and

power to facilitate the living fulfillment of our divine purpose, than it is to attempt to hang onto old ways of being that no longer serve our highest and best expression.

**Aug 5, Sunday.** There are several important trigger points lining up today. I mentioned the Pluto (12 Sag) and Saturn (12 Gemini) opposition last month and how it affects are long lasting and far reaching. Also happening today, Sun and Mercury (13 Leo) conjunct, as do Venus and Jupiter (5 Cancer). In addition to these energies, the Moon moves into Pisces energizing the qualities of inspired dreaming that capture our imagination. The messages of self-love, self-care, self-confidence, self-approval and self-acceptance are seeking greater expression through us as we surrender the limiting beliefs of the past, especially the ones around self-sacrificing our health and well-being while taking care of others in co-dependent ways. This often happens very subtly, and we don't always recognize the limiting beliefs that have felt vital to our survival. One way this manifests is the belief that if we take care of those closest to us; family, partner, friends, co-workers, etc. making sure they are okay, then that means we will be okay too! However, the real truth is, by taking care of self in a healthy way and allowing others to take responsibility for their own lives and experiences is actually more beneficial and liberating to all involved. Again the focus is on self-care. When we are taking care of ourselves we are healthier and healthy individuals create a healthy world, in the same way green trees are necessary for a green forest.

**Aug 6, Monday.** Jupiter and the North Node (5 Cancer) zodiacally align and Venus is within one degree. The transiting North Node symbolizes the possibilities of our collective destiny, while Jupiter magnifies and expands those possibilities. Venus represents the world feminine principle and the journey to integrate all the possibilities for expressing the feminine. Jupiter and Venus, our two brightest visible planets, are magnificent to witness together in the early morning pre-sunrise sky. A question worth considering regarding these energies is, just what great and expansive destiny is the great mother calling us towards? Carefully listening to the clues and inner promptings occurring now assists in this process of deepening and expanding self-discovery. This question is part of Jupiter in Cancer's year long quest to answer, lasting until Jupiter enters Leo next August.

**Aug 7, Tuesday,** Today the Sun reaches the exact astrological cross-quarter (15 Leo), between the Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox. The days are growing shorter, though still longer than the nights, and Autumn is just around the corner. In ancient times the cross-quarter dates between the equinoxes and solstices were celebrated as the "border time" or in-between time, the mid-point in-between two seasons. (This was usually celebrated at the new or full Moon closest to the cross-quarter, which is Aug 3 this year.) Lughnassadh was the first of three harvest festivals celebrating the plentiful ripening grain and the prosperity of the land and people. The Christian religion adopted this celebration and called it 'Lammas', meaning 'loaf-mass', a time when newly baked loaves of bread were placed on the altar. For more information about Lammas go to <http://www.whitemtns.com/~tarna/lammas.html>

**Aug 8, Wednesday.** Mercury (18 Leo) has reached the degree of the Aug 11, 1999 total Solar Eclipse, and is still within a couple of degrees of the Sun (16 Leo). The Sun, Mercury conjunction was on [Aug 5](#). Mercury is also aligning with the fixed star Alterf marking the mouth of the Lion. According to Richard Hinkley Allen in *Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning* Alterf translates as "'glance' i.e. of the lion's eye", though on modern star maps this star is found in the open mouth of the Lion. Remembering the Lion in the Great Above is linked to the Sphinx in the Great Below and also remembering that lions are the guardians of the doorways, or portals, to the treasures of knowledge and understanding, or Hall of Records we all carry within us, and knowing Mercury and the Sun are aligning with this area of the sky, we might ask; "What is the Lion's message? What portal or doorway is open for us to cross through? Is this message coded in ways we can understand or are open to understanding? Are we open to receiving further messages that were first seeded and activated during the 1999 total Solar Eclipse?" The next few days the Sun and Mercury call our attention to

these records and to the possibilities of remembering more of our origins, more of the Great Mystery of life and more of who we truly are.

**Aug 9, Thursday.** Retrograde Chiron (23Sag03) is slowing way down now, moving only eight minutes from now until Aug 27 when it stations direct (22Sag55). Chiron is currently retracing the stars in the constellation of [Ophiuchus](#), the serpent holder. Ophiuchus is also known as [Asclepius](#) the ancient Greek God of Healing and a famous physician who was trained by Chiron in the healing arts. Homer talks about two of the sons of Asclepius in the Illiad referring to them as physicians in the Greek army. Their descendents formed what was called the Asclepiadae, a large order of priest physicians who passed the sacred secrets of healing practiced in the temples of Health (called Ascelpieia) from father to son. The dreams of patients were interpreted by the Asclepiadae to determine the method of treatment. As Chiron is slowing towards its station it is a good time to notice our dreams and the healing messages they are bringing us.

**Aug 10, Friday.** Mercury (23 Leo) opposes Uranus (23 Aquarius), Earlier this year, Mercury and Uranus joined together three times, Jan. 22, Feb 15, and March 10 seeding a new innovative call to adventure around the mysteries of our creative self-expression, belief systems, and communication. Collectively, the Mercury/Uranus aspects are calling us to explore and experience new territory in the domain of the mind, communication and visionary inspiration. Uranus brings change, often in unexpected ways, and teamed up with Mercury, the messages of change are innovative, cutting edge, unpredictable, and expansive. We are being called to go beyond ordinary modes of thinking, expanding our abilities to think outside the box and entertain radical and unusual viewpoints while continuing to further open our minds to the constantly evolving revolutionary possibilities that are intended to inspire the fulfillment of our divine destiny. This is a time to pay attention to the incoming messages, possibly through a song, a movie, an incident, a conversation, an insight or “aha”, or simply a sense of what is changing and growing within our awareness.

**Aug 11, Saturday.** Retrograde Pluto (12Sagittarius36) is slowing down to station direct on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> at which time Pluto will be at 12Sagittarius32 moving only four more minutes over the next 12 days. There are 60 minutes in a degree so Pluto is practically stationary having slowed almost to a stop. In this place of stillness and deep inner reflection the symbolic shamanic transformation of the caterpillar into a butterfly takes place. Paying attention to the subtle inner shifts in awareness helps facilitate this process.

**Week of Aug 12-17** This week marks the [last quarter phase of the Moon](#) occurring at 20 Taurus. In the Hero or Heroine’s quest this Moon phase is the crossing of the return threshold back into the world they left, returning with the gifts and boons gained during the journey. The hero/ine has now reached mastery of both worlds, the world of the extraordinary adventure and the world of their “ordinary reality”, and is now free to access both realms more easily. This is archetypally linked to the shaman’s path, the path of death and rebirth having mastered the unseen realms of power. This is the time of the final harvest, where the plant begins its death process, preparing the seeds for the next cycle. During this next week the Moon continues to wane, symbolizing the completion phase of the integration process of the current journey. It also signals the time to begin looking at the new seeds to plant in the next cycle beginning with the Leo New Moon on Aug 18.

**Aug 12, Sunday.** The Taurus Last Quarter Moon phase suggests the mysteries of pleasure, beauty, receivership and intimacy are reaching a threshold of experience requiring conscious integration while also attending to the preparation and distillation of the new seeds of inspiration and self-love ready for sowing at the Leo New Moon on Aug 18. The transformational messenger Mercury (26 Leo) and the change artist Uranus (22 Aquarius) lend their energies to this last quarter Moon threshold reminding us to let go of attachments to outcome and be open to what is spontaneously and lovingly seeking expression.

Moon enters Gemini later today, energizing the mysteries of the Heyokah, Coyote, Contrary, Shapeshifter, Magician. Gemini is the eternal youth, free from the rules, reminding us not to take ourselves too seriously. This is a good time to play, go to a party, socialize, network, or do something completely spontaneous, creative and fun.

**Aug 13, Monday.** Moon occults (similar to an eclipse) Saturn (13 Gemini). This is the same degree the Moon occulted Venus last month and marked the passage of Venus through the 4<sup>th</sup> gate into the underworld, where Venus (a.k.a. Inanna) gave up her breast plate symbolizing the release of all the ways she no longer truly loves herself. This past month and for the next few days the intent is to notice if there is anything hidden within ourselves that prevents us from fully loving who we are. If the answer is yes, then now is the time to acknowledge and release whatever it is. The wisdom of Saturn, as the one who knows the rules and how things really work in this dimensional reality, is accelerated once again through today's occultation, and this activation is useful for utilizing Saturn as an ally in structuring the changes that support the new forms of self-love we are consciously co-creating.

**Aug 14, Tuesday.** Mercury has just entered Virgo. Messenger Mercury in Virgo speaks to the importance of consciously attuning to the natural cycles and rhythms of the Earth and Sky for the purpose of living in harmony and balance. Everything co-exists together and when we are attuned to this reality we can work as conscious co-creators with the sacred patterning of life. The Gemini Void of Course Moon this afternoon and lasting into the early morning hours tomorrow encourages us to take time to reflect and go within for guidance.

Tomorrow the Sun (22Leo51) and retrograde Uranus (22Aquarius51) reach their exact opposition marking the center point of the current Uranus Retrograde cycle symbolizing a crossing of a threshold into a new level of experience connected to Uranus. This week may bring sudden and unexpected events challenging our sense of self. Flexibility and letting go of any expectations or attachments to outcomes is especially liberating and freeing now. Remember, disruptions are opportunities to break out of old limiting patterns. Releasing expectations and embracing the opportunities that present themselves when we do let go, helps facilitate the process of change for the purpose of living freedom and joy. Uranus is transiting through the Tail of the Goat (a.k.a. Capricorn see [the difference between the signs and constellations](#)) zodiacally aligned with the fixed stars Nashira and Deneb Algedi (23° Aquarius). The early Arabs referred to these two stars as the Fortunate Ones, or the Bringer of Good Tidings (<http://www.winshop.com.au/anne/alphabet1.htm>).

**Aug 15, Wednesday.** The waning Moon enters Cancer this morning. Archetypal Cancer carries the mysteries of the importance of living life in ways that nourish and support ourselves and all life. These mysteries are linked with the divine mother and divine father, who provide love, nurturing, caring, and safety for all their children. Moon occults (similar to an eclipse) Jupiter visible in Eastern China, Japan, Alaska, Southwest Canada, and the USA, according to Jim Maynard's Celestial guide. Jupiter is traveling through Cancer until next summer expanding our relationship to these mysteries. Practicing daily self-care, resting when tired, self-nurturing in healthy, gentle, easy ways are big parts of mastering the Cancer mysteries. This helps support the deep and vast cellular changes happening planetarily and within each individual. We have an opportunity to change the old doing driven paradigm by changing the deeply ingrained patterns of doing, doing, doing and care taking others at the expense of our health and well being. Embracing and expanding our knowledge and experience of self-care helps facilitate a smoother transition and integration of the new paradigm or golden age of peace and plenty. Allowing time for plenty of rest, consciously drinking plenty of water, and taking time to relax and have fun helps in integrating all the changes that are occurring so quickly now.

**Aug 16, Thursday.** [Moon and Venus](#) meet in the sky marking the 5<sup>th</sup> gateway of Inanna's journey into the underworld since Venus rose as a morning star in early April of this year. The 5<sup>th</sup> gate is linked to the 3<sup>rd</sup> chakra and this is where Inanna is required to give up her belt symbolizing her personal power. Inanna/Venus is surrendering the ways she no longer holds her power in balance and harmony, either

because she is giving it away to others, or she is afraid to use her power for fear of hurting others, or she is using her power to control and manipulate others. Whatever the imbalance, Venus now surrenders her misused power becoming more vulnerable and open to the initiation as she progresses through the rest of the gates into the underworld. Venus remains worth noticing near Jupiter in the eastern pre-dawn sky.

**Aug 17, Friday.** The Leo New Moon window activates today joined by several potent planetary factors including Mars and Chiron's third conjunction in a few days, Pluto and Saturn's continuing opposition, plus Pluto and Chiron's station direct in a few days, and the Uranus opposition to the Sun still pretty close. These are just some of the aspects that are still busily at work rewiring life here on planet Earth at a deep cellular level. Indeed, evidence exists that some individuals are actually showing new strands in their DNA. These new strands of DNA seem to be linked to surprising telekinetic and telepathic abilities especially in children. One source of information about this is from an article titled DNA AND CELLULAR CHANGES " DNA Upgrades " by Patricia Resch interviewing Dr. Berrenda Fox, a holistic practitioner of the Avalon Wellness Center in Mt. Shasta, California. The article was written some time ago and the Avalon Wellness Center has since closed and yet this information persists as an inspiration reflecting the possibility of deep cellular changes literally occurring in our bodies. Remembering to rest and replenish ourselves daily especially through drinking lots of pure water (ideally living water) hydrating the physical body with liquid light, helps in smoothing out the integration of these deep physical changes.

**Week of Aug 18 - 24. New Moon Phase.** New Moon's occur about every 29 and ½ days when the Moon aligns with the Sun from the Earth's perspective. The New Moon is a conception point, a time when farmers plant their seeds, or a new adventure (or initiation) begins. Working with a clear intent during the New Moon window (a three day window including the day before and after the exact New Moon) is a wonderful timing for collectively planting seeds, or prayers, for wholeness, healing, harmony, balance, peace, and so on. As the crescent Moon increases in light, growing bigger each night, it symbolizes the growth of the seeds planted at the New Moon. The Leo New Moon is an excellent timing for planting seeds around the mysteries of self-love, self-care, self-acceptance, self-approval, and self-confidence.

**Aug 18, Saturday,** The Leo New Moon (26 Leo) is occurring close to the fixed star Regulus, marking the heart of the Lion. The Lion constellation is linked to the Sphinx and "The Hall Of Records". *In his [Fingerprints of the Gods](#), Graham Hancock pointed out that the First Time date of 10,500 BCE also denoted the beginning or First Time of the Age of Leo. This was when the Lion constellation would have risen heliacally (at dawn before the sun) on the day of the vernal (spring) equinox. This event brought the celestial lion to rest due east, thus in perfect alignment with the Sphinx. The Sphinx, in other words, was made to look at his own image in the horizon -- and consequently at his own "time."* The New Moon so close to Regulus plants the seeds of remembrance around the Sphinx and the codes or records hidden in there. The Sphinx in the Great Above (The constellation of the Lion) is reflected by the Sphinx in Egypt in the Great Below reminding us of the divine codes we all carry within ourselves. This is a powerful New Moon window for intentionally integrating and accepting our true divine natures. It is time to know that we are divine beings, we are the radiant and shining ones returning to walk the earth once again with Golden Auras of light anchoring and living the Golden Age of Peace and Plenty. As the Hopi Elders remind us, "We are the ones we have been waiting for."

**Aug 19, Sunday.** The Sun is moving closer to the exact zodiacal alignment with Regulus, the heart of the Lion, activating a doorway in the Great Above to the Sphinx in the Great below who is the keeper of the records of the origins and true history of humanity. Still within the New Moon window, attuning our awareness to these mysteries, it is possible to receive messages, insights and inspiration around what these ancient records hold for us, as they are also encoded not only in the Stars, and the Sphinx, but also in our DNA.

**Aug 20, Monday.** An afternoon Void of Course Moon that lasts until the early morning hours tomorrow reminds of the importance of taking time for inner reflection and rest. Reflecting on the mysteries of the Sphinx as the Sun continues its dance with Regulus further opens and illuminates this doorway in our awareness. It also is interesting to note that Regulus is one of the four royal stars, linked with the archangel Raphael, the healing angel and watcher of the North. Even more intriguing is the fact that Regulus currently at 29Leo50 will move into the sign of Virgo around 2012 facilitating a major shift in the mysteries associated with the heart of the Lion and the royal star considered to lead all the other royal stars.

**Aug 21, Tuesday.** Mercury, moving about a degree and a half a day, squares retrograde Pluto (12 Sag) last night and squares Saturn (13 Gemini) today. The transformational messenger is counseling with Pluto the guardian of the deep mysteries of death and rebirth and Saturn the guardian of the equally potent mysteries of structure and form. What messages are coming from this council? What still needs to die, in order for new structures to birth that empower and enliven our lives?

**Aug 22, Wednesday,** The Sun Moves into Virgo today where it remains until September 22. The Sun passes through each sign in about 30 days at regular seasonal intervals marking the passage of a year in a dependable, repeating pattern. The Virgo mysteries are the keepers of this knowledge of the natural cycles and of the Earth and Sky. The patterning of life, the weaving of the web, these are the mysteries of Spider woman. The ancient skywatchers were the priestesses trained in the knowledge of the sacred timings and when to perform the special ceremonies that kept life in balance. Are you attuned to your own personal rhythms of rest and activity? Do you honor your body's needs for exercise, nourishment and rejuvenation? Are you attuned to the natural cycles, the cycles within cycles, that are designed to facilitate balance, harmony and high magic in our lives and in our world when we consciously participate with them? The Celestial Timings are one offering intended to assist us in consciously connecting with these collective cycles.

Mars and Chiron (23 Sag) make their third conjunction completing the Chiron council meeting begun back in May. Mars has begun his new quest under the guidance of Chiron, the master/teacher shamanic healer and Ophiucus, the constellation of the Serpent Holder/Healer where both Chiron and Mars are currently transiting. Ophiucus is also known as Aesclepius and is considered the lineal ancestor (the 15th in descent) of the great physician Hippocrates. Aesculapius was the first physician according to Greek myth and considered the future god of medicine, because he was able to use poisons to cure diseases and restore the dead to life. Aesclepius learned these healing mysteries directly from the serpents or snakes, who were and are symbols of prudence, renovation, wisdom, and the power of discovering healing herbs. Now is a good time to be open to the healing possibilities, where all the poisons of the past can transform into the medicines that heal and restore the wholeness of life. (See [Aug 9](#) for info about [Aesclepius](#) healing through dreams)

**Aug 23, Thursday.** Pluto stations direct at 12Sagittarius32, and synchronistically the Moon is in Scorpio which is ruled by Pluto, calling our attention to the importance of the Scorpio/Pluto mysteries of death and rebirth, resurrection and renewal, and empowerment through the Shamanic Journey that calls us to face the fears that disempower us. When a planet stations either direct or retrograde there is often a feeling of chaos and confusion. The Scorpio/Pluto mysteries call us to surrender to the will of the divine, aligning personal will with divine will for the purpose of mastering the art of magic and manifestation. This requires personal sacrifice. It is interesting to note that the original meaning of the word sacrifice was "to make sacred" through surrender to divine will. Are we willing to sacrifice, meaning submitting to divine guidance and offering the self to the will of the divine?

Pluto is also transiting in Ophiucus and near the fixed star Antares, the heart of the Scorpion, further emphasizing the power of the serpent medicine that teaches how to turn the poisons into elixirs that restore healthy life. These energies are key ingredients of this year's transformational cauldron. If you are feeling disoriented from the intensity of these energies, take time to meditate, journal, sing, dance,

hang out on the Earth under tree, or just be. Following your inner guidance and listening to what your body needs in these intensified times of purification and transformation is especially helpful now.

**Aug 24, Friday.** We have a Void of Course Moon most of the day until late afternoon or evening depending on your time zone when the Moon shifts into Libra. The Void of Course Moon is an opportunity to deepen our inner process and indeed many often experience difficulty in getting things going or making things happen in the outer world during this timing. Relaxing and going with the flow is highly recommended. Once the Moon moves into Libra the mysteries of conscious equal partnership, balance and harmony with self and others are highlighted for the next couple of days. Conscious equal partnership does not imply sameness, but rather the ability to value equally the gifts the “other” brings to our life and the world.

**Week of Aug 25 – Sep 2** The Sagittarius [First Quarter Moon](#) is found directly overhead on Aug 25. This is the most visible growth phase of the Moon (literally) and the best time to put our ideas and plans into action. As the week progresses the Moon waxes or gains in light until reaching its full phase in Pisces on Sep 2.

**Aug 25, Saturday.** The Sagittarius [First Quarter Moon](#) (3 degrees) accelerates and expands the quest for truth and meaning providing opportunities for gaining insights and meaning that expands our sense of purpose to wider and wider creative expressions.

**Aug 26, Sunday.** The Moon conjuncts Pluto and opposes Saturn today. Remember Pluto and Saturn are transiting in close opposition to each other until next year, maintaining the initiation into seeing and feeling even more deeply what needs to die, what needs to transform so a new reality, a new way of being is anchored and structured into our daily experience.

Venus enters Leo today where it remains until Sep 21. The feminine principle is now engaging the mysteries intended to consciously realize our radiant and shining essence, totally loving who we are, and to recognize and celebrate the divinity we all carry. These are the teachings of the Leo mysteries. It doesn't mean we know how, it means we have an opportunity to learn more about these mysteries through this planetary transit.

**Aug 27, Monday.** Today marks the first [Moon/Mars](#) conjunction (24 Sagittarius) since Mars turned direct in July. The new 26 month Mars quest began in May when Mars (23 Sag) and the Sun (23 Gemini) reached opposition. This current Mars cycle still has about 2 more years before it is complete. Mars represents the masculine principle and the current quest began in Sagittarius emphasizing the themes of the quest for truth and meaning. Mythically, this connects with stories related to the quest for the sword of truth and victory. In the story of King Arthur he receives the sword of truth and victory as the way to lead his people to freedom. Symbolically the sword of truth cuts through the lies, deceptions and illusions that keep the people in bondage and limitation. The victory comes when everyone is free. Each Moon/Mars conjunction for the next 10 months represents the 10 labors (or tasks of the initiation) of Mars necessary to complete the current quest.

Chiron stations direct today at 22Sagittarius51. With Chiron and Pluto stationing direct so close together its likely to feel disorienting for a couple of more weeks until these shamanic energies get readjusted to moving forward again. Both Pluto and Chiron are shamanic energies dealing with death, transformation and rebirth as demonstrated by the caterpillar who gives up her form, alchemically transforms and births into the butterfly. One way to work with this energy is to notice any personal transformational processes you are currently experiencing and then consciously choose surrender to the process, much like the caterpillar who surrenders her old form within the chrysalis so a new form has room to birth. (See [August 9](#))

**Aug 28, Tuesday.** Still in the energy of the Moon/Mars conjunction, Mercury, the transformational messenger (25 Virgo) has reached its last quarter square to Mars, the masculine principle (25 Sag). Mercury won't catch up to Mars until July of next year. The last quarter square indicates a time of integrating and distilling knowledge and information in a way that is useful and supportive. Mercury and Mars together tend to operate at a fast pace, often acting impulsively. It is important to take time to communicate responsibly with others and be open to the new messages Mercury is bringing to Mars in his current quest for truth and wholeness. Mercury reminds us that external truth is always changing as our perception changes. What we perceive as truth today may not be true for us tomorrow. The quest is to understand the nature of truth within and without, in its many different forms and non-forms. These next several months provide an opportunity to discover the meaning behind the old saying "The truth shall set you free." Remember, the Mars quest includes the sword of truth that cuts through the illusions that bind us to a limited reality.

**Aug 29, Wednesday.** The Moon entered Capricorn on Monday and has been transmitting the mysteries that teach us how to more effectively administrate the domain of our earthly life. When in balance the Capricorn mysteries operate with awareness of how our actions effect the next seven generations. How do we contribute to the health and well being of our personal and collective environment? Are we guilty of consuming huge quantities of resources, such as water, electricity, wood, paper, etc. with little thought or regard about how our actions effect our world? Waking up to the effective and efficient administration of all of Earth's resources is one important step towards becoming more responsible global citizens.

**Aug 30, Thursday.** The waxing Moon enters Aquarius bringing through the mysteries of the cosmic revolutionary who experiments with innovative ideas intended to accelerate growth and consciousness. This is a good time to question the rules and structure of your life and find where they are limiting and restrictive. If such structures exist now is a good time to invite the changes that support your freest expression of who you truly are. The Moon meets with Neptune today moving on to catch up with Uranus late tomorrow or early the next day. Through creative imagination (Neptune) and through unexpected, unplannable, unknowable events designed to support our freest possible expression (Uranus), the alchemy of liberation frees us to fully live our truest heart's desire. All that's necessary is to truly trust the divine timing as it unfolds in so many magical and yet often unexpected and possibly confusing ways, designed to break up the limiting beliefs that have held us back from expressing our true selves.

**Aug 31, Friday.** Mercury enters Libra where it remains until Nov 7 due to its retrograde that begins in October. Messenger Mercury in Libra centers around the mysteries of conscious equal partnership in harmony and balance with all life. We exist in relationship to the Earth and Sky, each other, and to all that is seen and unseen. Questions for the next couple of months as Mercury explores Libra in depth are as follows. Are you conscious of your interrelatedness to every aspect of creation? Are you engaging a conscious relationship with yourself and life? Are you willingly growing in this conscious awareness of self and how you exist in relationship to the rest of life? Are your relationships rewarding, fulfilling, expansive, and fun? Regardless of your answers to these questions these next couple of months provide possibilities for deepening our experience of relationship and communication with everyone and everything we encounter in our lives.

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