In the early 1990’s Cayelin K Castell created this transcript based on a talk given by Daniel Giamario. Together, Daniel and Cayelin updated the text in May 2016.

**The Moon, The Tribal Totem, and The Lineage of the Soul**

Shamanic Astrology interprets the Moon differently from most forms of astrology. In this system the sign of the Moon is viewed as your lineage, what you came into the life with, prior to your encounter with the family, culture, and time period in history when you were born.

The Sun sign is the fuel or energy we use to navigate through life. The angles of the chart (what is coming up over the eastern horizon, what is setting in the west, and what are the highest and lowest points) are the main clues for determining current life intent.

These angles change degrees every 4 minutes and change signs every 2 hours, and are the backbone for determining life purpose using the Shamanic Astrology Paradigm. The Ascendant (As) is the PERSONAL IDENTITY PROJECT, the Midheaven (Mc) is THE RIGHT-LIVELIHOOD PROJECT, the Descendant (Ds) is THE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT, and the Bottom of the Chart (Ic) is THE HOME AND ROOTS PROJECT.

It is the Ascendant that provides the greatest clue for life purpose, or what training or Mystery School a person has signed up to learn about in the current life.

The Moon is the LINEAGE OF THE SOUL representing a combination of three factors all merged together: family history, what's written in our genetic code, and past life themes. At other times in history looking at the Moon as past life themes would not have been as necessary, because families and cultures stayed generally in the same locality. Chances are the children would be of the same bloodline for generations. Outsiders wouldn't appear very often.
Today it is different. In a family with four children, one or two of them might be from the same or similar tribal lineage. The other children, however, often show up from very different tribal cultures. In these cases, the skill set may be very different than the other family members. Looking at the Moon as the Lineage is a way of combining genetic codes, family history, and past life themes.

For people who aren’t comfortable looking at the Moon this way, there is another perspective that views the Moon as representing historical and personal mythology. In other words, this view of the Moon is a way of understanding who you used to be.

**What Are the Habits, Attitudes, Addictions, and Expectations that Come From the Moon?** Knowledge of the Moon provides the greatest clues about the challenges a person faces in this life, including the habits and attitudes they may have, along with addictions and expectations.

Going through each Moon sign will provide insight into what the previous training was. It tells us what we are best at, what we can become most addicted to, what we might be over-identified with, or what might hold us back from moving into new territory. Yet the Moon is what got us here. It is our foundation.

In traditional astrology, the Moon is associated with instincts, emotions, and feelings, along with characteristics ascribed to family and roots. The characteristics of the Moon are based on the assumption that we are not a blank slate when we are born but rather have a natural predisposition to experience life in a particular way.

Both experiences of life and death have in common intensely difficult ego loss and complete surrender. In other words, when you are born, no matter what your attainment was previously you do not get to consciously remember it. However, a sense of what those skills are still exists at the core of who you are. Even many enlightened masters do not get to remember what they have attained until later in life when their awareness matures.
Occasionally, there are cases of children who do remember, but it usually gets programmed out of them at an early age. Most spiritual traditions agree there is a necessity to enter this life with a sense of innocence. This means the person does not have access to all the previous information and knowledge they have gained prior to this life. It is surrendered at birth.

**What Do We Have When We Come Into This Life?**
We definitely do NOT have a reference to our previous identity, and we do NOT know or remember our previous attainments. (Of course there are a few exceptions.) We also do NOT remember or have knowledge of what our agreements are for the current life. Nevertheless, there are still certain ways of being that are naturally a part each person when they are born.

It is for this reason the Moon provides a much better personality study than the Sun sign.

**Why the Moon Tells Us More than the Sun Sign**
Most everyone can know their Sun sign, because there is only one day a month when the Sun changes signs. The Moon, however, changes signs every two and a half days. That means to know where the Moon was when a person was born requires an ephemeris or a computer-generated chart. Because the Moon is in a sign for such a short time, it is more individualistic and more personal than the Sun.

Going a step further, it is the Rising sign that is the most personal part of the chart as it changes signs every couple of hours. That is why the Rising sign or Ascendant has greater importance in understanding the evolving purpose of the soul, or determining the soul's journey in the current life.

Therefore we can see that the Sun sign is far more general as it is changing signs every 30 days. The Moon sign is more specific, moving through all twelve signs each month. That means that in any season or time of year, a person can have any one of the 12 Moon signs.
The Moon is Your Ph.D.

Shamanic Astrology describes these signs as tribes or Mystery Schools. The Moon position is where a person has a Ph.D. describing what they already know or what skill set they have when they are born. The Moon describes the life experiences a person was validated or recognized for previously and the training they took to get it.

In this system we view all twelve trainings (signs the Moon can occupy) as equally valid. No one Moon sign is more or less important than any other. There is no such thing as a good or a bad sign for the Moon.

If we lived in a culture that had any degree of enlightenment, balance, or awareness, transcending the personal prejudices of who has been in charge recently, we would find all twelve tribes or Moon positions would be validated and valued. There would also be good and effective training available for all of them.

Due to the fact that this has not been the case for the last few thousand years, traditional astrology views the Moon as more difficult in certain signs and better in others.

The majority of these judgments come from whatever the culture views as desirable. For example, if we were in a matriarchal culture, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn, and Taurus Moon would be highly desirable signs for the Moon. From a patriarchal perspective these same Moon signs are actually undesirable.

Gender is another factor that comes into play. There are certain trainings represented by the Moon that are easier to access in our current culture for those who are born male rather than female. For example, it is easier to be born male with a fire sign (Leo, Sagittarius, or Aries) Moon in today’s society than it is to be born female with a fire sign Moon. Conversely, it is easier to be born female with a water Moon (Cancer, Pisces, but not Scorpio, which will be explained later) than it is be born male with a water Moon.
Of the six masculine signs (fire and air signs), the only one that is easily assimilated into patriarchal culture for women is the Libra Moon. There is also a greater difficulty for women who have Virgo, Taurus, or Scorpio Moon, even though these are feminine signs. Unless a woman is born with a Cancer, Pisces, or Capricorn Moon, she will find greater difficulty in being accepted by the current culture for her lineage skill set. (See last page for the signs and their corresponding element.)

This is because the Moon is the skill set you carry into this life. Therefore, the personality traits that are easily connected to the Moon are not necessarily what is intended to continue as a leading factor for this life. It is more likely that these factors show up as an addiction, a fallback position, or a path of least resistance.

**The Law of the Moon States:**

**CONTINUING TO LIVE YOUR LIFE BASED UPON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR MOON IS INSUFFICIENT TO YOUR LIBERATION.**

That is because we have already mastered what the Moon represents. We have already received rewards and recognition for our accomplishments in that area. If a person comes into life expecting that they will continue to receive recognition for these qualities, they will be disappointed, because the law of the Moon clearly states there is no additional reward or fulfillment from continuing to focus on the skills of the Moon.

**Removing the Reward And Getting Power Back**

What strategies then might be utilized to insure a person moves into new territory and does not continue to use the training of the Moon? One simple strategy is called REMOVE THE REWARD.

No longer will a person experience a reward or sense of satisfaction for continuing to express their lineage skills as the leading edge of who they are.

However, if a person is in the category of having a Moon that is automatically violated or invalidated by the culture, for example, a woman with a fire Moon (Leo, Sagittarius, or Aries) or a man with a water Moon (Cancer, Pisces, or Scorpio), there is a point where that person will have to "get their power back" by reclaiming their lineage skill set and feeling good about it.
This describes the importance of having the power of the Moon as a healthy foundation for moving into current life intent. It is interesting to note that in esoteric astrology, the Moon position is thrown out entirely, because the Moon is seen as representing a shell from the past that no longer serves a purpose.

Shamanic Astrology does not view the Moon as negative or only in the past, but rather it is the foundation or beginning place—everything else follows from there. When there is a healthy relationship with the Moon, meaning a person is not attached to or over-identified with the Moon, it is much easier to move into new territory.

**Question:** What if you have North Node in the same sign as the Moon?

This is a special case and calls forth a marvelous imagery similar to completing a circle. It is a way of moving to a higher octave. The North Node is associated with taking the lineage into a new direction, a new expression.

**Two Predicaments of the Moon**
As earlier mentioned, the first predicament is cultural, like women who have a fire Moon and men who have a water Moon.

For example, a woman might have a tremendously well-aspected Moon in Aries, but if she is born into a culture or a family that has no interest in a woman being the Amazon type—free, independent, and strong willed—she will experience invalidation for those qualities and traits.

The same thing can happen if a man has a Cancer Moon or a Pisces Moon as they will not get validation for their highly developed feeling function and sensitivity, even if the Moon is well aspected.

The second predicament has to do with outer planet aspects to the Moon. (See end of article for more a definition of aspects.)
If a person has strong Pluto aspects to the Moon, such as a conjunction, opposition, or square, they are in a category that experiences violation to the original heritage. If a person has strong Saturn to the Moon, like the ones already mentioned, then they are likely to experience invalidation of their best skills represented by the sign of the Moon.

Uranus to the Moon often provides unique or unusual circumstances of violation or invalidation. Neptune to the Moon fogs out a person's awareness of their innate skill set. When Neptune aspects the Moon through conjunction, square, or opposition, that person is likely to spend their first 20 years of life having no conscious sense of what their lineage skill set actually is.

If there are no dynamic aspects to the Moon and the Moon position is not culturally invalidated or violated, then the person often falls into the category of being addicted to their Moon.

For example, a person with a Capricorn Moon who has been, and expects to be, respected for their wisdom and the results they can get, finds this continues easily for them. However, when they reach a certain age like 40 or 50, this is when they might suddenly realize how incredibly bored they are and they might begin to ask: “so what else is new?”

There are thousands of people on the planet who are incredibly successful, but aren't happy. This is especially true if they are addicted to past successes and are no longer feeling these successes as a reward.

This is because if the identity is based upon the Moon, the Law of the Moon applies, meaning it is insufficient to your Liberation. Looked at another way, the Moon is the foundation from where everything else follows, but in and of itself it cannot take us into any new territory.

People who have Pluto and/or Saturn strategies (meaning conjunctions, squares, and oppositions) to the Moon, even though it is difficult due to the wounding they experience, find they are being forced into new territory. Otherwise, it might feel like they are banging their head against the wall, never getting to experience what the new territory is. This is why we say there is good news and bad news connected to these strategies of violation, invalidation, or addiction.
The good news for the violation and invalidation strategy is that you will be sufficiently motivated to try something different. The bad news is there are wounds to heal. On the addiction path, the good news is there is no wounding. The bad news is there may not be sufficient motivation to make any changes.

Interestingly, a great majority of people who get involved in astrology are in the Saturn/Pluto grouping, or have Moon positions that are NOT culturally supported. That is why there are an inordinate number of men who come to astrology groups with water Moons and an inordinate number of Women who come to astrology groups with fire or air Moons.

**Archetypes of the Moon**

**Leo Moon**
The Leo Moon has already had an opportunity to develop the qualities associated with Leo. What is Leo training? What is the main thing a person learns in the astrological mystery school of Leo? They learn Self-love, including radical self-love, radical self-hood! I AM THAT I AM!

Leo is the one who runs the energy of Creation. Someone who has healthy a Leo Moon can walk into a room and know their greatest contribution to humanity is simply showing up in the radiance of who they are. It has nothing to do with how good they are or what they do. Therefore, even though we might think Leo is a somewhat patriarchal masculine sign, the fact is that when Leo is healthy, it is opposed to patriarchal principles.

The Patriarchy says THE SUCCESS YOU ACHIEVE AND THE LOVE YOU RECEIVE IS BASED UPON HOW GOOD YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU DO. This is not true for Leo. This is because Leos love themselves so much, they radiate their light and make their contribution simply by showing up.

**What is Leo’s contribution?**
They empower others through their own self-confidence. It is like the leading man or the leading woman. If we look at this as a past life theme, then the Leo Moon has already had a shot at developing radical self-love.

Let’s imagine what kinds of experiences a person might have had in other
lives to generate radical healthy self-love, including having been being born into royalty. In the earlier days of royalty, to be King or Queen didn't mean a person unfairly had power and superiority over other people. Rather, a person was royalty because they represented the best qualities of the people.

For those who historically look at the issues of clan and cast, the esoteric perspective is that there were times in history where if you were not in a certain bloodline, you wouldn't have the ability or the genetic encoding to experience the same things. The Brahmin caste originally could only experience what they experienced because of certain genetic codes in their blood. They had a genetic program for infinity. This is no longer true today.

What other kinds of experiences might a person have had in the past to generate radical self-love? They could have been a famous superstar arriving in a limousine, automatically being deferred to and getting front row seats. There is no judgment made by others as to whether or not they earned it. In fact, most people in Leo training really did earn the right to their star status.

Once a person has accomplished much of what they can possibly accomplish in the Leo tribe, they are born with a Leo Moon. The challenge for many Leo Moons is having a feeling of outrage: "How dare I be treated this way! Where is my kingdom, and why am I not getting special treatment?"

Someone with a Leo Moon now has to experience life as an ordinary person. To become humble, have humility, and be just one of the people is a difficult teaching especially for Leo Moons. People with Moon and Pluto in Leo have most likely gotten a particularly strong dose of humility and humbleness training in their early life. (Pluto was in Leo from 1940 until October of 1956, returning to Leo for a short time in 1957) Most people with Moon and Pluto in Leo have had to experience violation and invalidation, rather than experiencing an over-identified addiction to their Moon.
There are two archetypal stories we can tell to illustrate what can happen to Leo Moon: the addicted version and the violated version.

The first story is of Gautama Buddha, or Prince Siddhartha, born in the lap of luxury, silver spoon, everything going for him. His father kept him from having any experiences of how challenging life really is. Out of choice, Siddhartha overturned the system, made his descent into the lower world, and actually became a connoisseur of all possible descents into the lower world. He wanted to find out what really goes on in third dimensional reality. That's a real shift from Leo.

The other story comes from Ram Dass. When saw all the beggars in India, he felt that he wanted to help them all. In our western culture, there are two extreme responses to this situation. Right wing conservatives might judge the beggars as a bunch of lazy bums who could get their life together if they would pick themselves up and do some work. On the other end of the spectrum is the desire to provide help for all of them.

Ram Dass was advised to follow his intuition on what to give the beggars and then just give that sum to one of them, because they all share with each other. He was also told not to judge the beggars because it is likely that any one beggar was a Maharaja in his last life and he was probably the best possible Maharaja. The problem is a Maharaja can never learn humbleness and humility, so that is why he has chosen the life of a beggar. It is a concentrated experience of powerlessness, and this will probably be his last life.

Some of the most powerful Pluto/Saturn aspects to the Moon can be illustrated by that story. At a certain point the Leo Moon person is intended to get the joke. They have already graduated with honors in being royalty, being famous, or being a Superstar. It is now someone else's turn. Central casting has another role for them to learn. However, the Leo Moon can still retrieve their own self-worth and self-love as the foundation for everything else they are doing.
One-Third/Two-Thirds Formula

There is a principle or formula that can apply to every Moon position called one-third/two-thirds. This formula suggests that the Moon is used only one third of the time and the rest of the time is spent learning and exploring the new mysteries described by the rest of the chart. This works really well because the Moon is meant to be the foundation of the current life, but is not meant to be the leading edge of the current life as that represents attachment to the skills of the Moon.

Positive and Negative Attachment

There are two kinds of attachment: positive and negative. Both produce challenging experiences. Positive attachment from the Leo Moon perspective is a person who is born into royalty or is famous at an early age. But as mentioned before, this person will reach age 40 to 50 and they will wonder what else is new? Life is boring and redundant. Siddhartha got tired and bored of being royalty, and he wanted to find out what really goes on in life. Positive attachment for a Leo Moon is accepting their role as royalty and not risking going into new territory.

Negative attachment is much more common. A person might feel violated and wonder why they are being treated badly. Those negatively attached to a Leo Moon are often angry and determined to get the respect they are sure they deserve. However, that day will never come unless they get the joke and realize that isn’t the main focus for them in this life. Once they release the attachment to getting respect, life can really begin and be enjoyable.

The Moon in Relationships

The Moon tells us a lot about how a person will express through relationships in early life, including intimate relationships, family relationships, business partnerships, and friendships. Knowing someone’s Moon helps a person know how to treat someone to help bring them back into balance, if they are frightened, upset, over their head, or in some way not happy.

For the Leo Moon, it helps to treat them like they are the king, the queen, the star, or the most special person you have ever been around. This may seem counter-intuitive and you may think, “like hell I am going to do that; they already have a big enough ego.” However, in this case it does work, because it causes their heart to melt and they become vulnerable. On the other hand, if a person with a Leo Moon is in a relationship where that is all that ever happens, then it is an addiction.
Libra Moon

The Libra Moon is completely different than the Leo Moon. Libra training asks the question: "WHAT IS THE NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP?" A person with a Libra Moon has already completed that training.

The Libra Moon was very likely born into a culture where they had an arranged marriage or where the principles of the culture worked really well, generation after generation. Perhaps they were born in a Confucian golden age, where all relationships were in balance. For example, the right husbands were with the right wives, the right children were with the right parents, the right subjects were with the right king, the right friends were with the right friends, and the right teachers were with the right students.

When these relationships are in exact balance, then it is a golden age. Then there is harmony, there is civilization, and the culture really works. This is when arranged marriage is practiced in a helpful way, because by definition you would get the right person, not based upon romantic love or physical attraction, but based upon family history, class, caste, economic situations, and the astrological chart.

So the Libra Moon comes into the life a master of relationship and with an expectation of associating with people who are going to have the same standards of relating.

At the Turning Of The Ages, What Does the Libra Moon Discover?

They discover that virtually no one has these standards of relating or people are confused about how to relate to others in healthy ways. The Libra Moon gets trashed for what they consider to be their excellent relationship qualities. It can be a rude awakening. However, the skill set they have is still in right relationship. So their best traits come from there, but it’s most likely they won’t get validated for those traits.

A Libra Moon comes into life not remembering how they got their Ph.D. in being a good partner. So if anything goes wrong they might feel they haven’t been good enough or they should have done better by meeting higher standards. They might feel it was their fault in some way, and maybe if they can do better and rise to a higher standard next time, then they will get the validation they desire for being a good partner. Ironically the reality is the Libra Moon already knows how to be an excellent partner.
The best way to bring a Libra Moon back into balance if they are scared or freaked out is to validate them for what a great partner they are. It is helpful for them to get to do something together, as friends or as a couple.

**How Do Trines and Sextiles Affect the Moon?**
Trines are 120 degree aspects and usually occur between signs that are in the same element. For example, Pisces is trine Scorpio and Cancer. Sextiles are 60 degrees. For example, Pisces is sextile Taurus and Capricorn. (See the end of this document for a table that shows the signs that are Trine and Sextile each other.)

These aspects (especially from outer planets) often show up in the addiction category, unless the Moon is culturally invalidated.

**Saturn Moon**
Saturn in square (90 degrees), opposition (180 Degrees), or conjunct (0 Degrees) to the Moon seems to create limit conditions contradictory to the area of mastery symbolized by the Moon position.

For example, let's look at a woman with Taurus Moon who might have the belief that if she could just get the designer body, she would get true love or the modeling contract. She spends years working on this, and perhaps even has plastic surgery to attain the cultural image of beauty. As far as she can tell, she succeeds and she is beautiful by the standards of the culture. Yet nothing changes—she doesn't get the contract and true love does not arrive.

From Saturn’s perspective, being perfect with your Moon isn’t what you are here to do. It is about getting over it and investigating new territory.

**Question:** If you feel like your perfectionism keeps bugging you, but you never really stay in one thing long enough to master it, you just dabble though it drives you nuts because you never quite get there, is that a Saturn affliction?
Yes, if Saturn is aspecting the Moon or some other part of the chart and you seek incessant perfectionism, yet you don’t ever stay with one thing that long, that might be perfectly all right.

There are certain charts of people who beat themselves up because they never finish anything, but the reality is it would be a waste of their time if they ever did. If they gave themselves permission to be a person who just does a lot of different things, only going up to a certain point with it before going on to the next thing that might be totally appropriate for them.

For these people the guilt comes when someone else is telling them to finish what they start. But if they know finishing whatever it is they started wouldn't get them any further anyway, then they can just enjoy how they really are.

Saturn is so overwhelming that it is time to create a new relationship with this initiator. There is a negative perception about Saturn that is not really the essence of Saturn, but has been the content of Saturn for the last 5,000 years. The reality is we need Saturn along with the structure, the form, the rules, and the operating manual that it provides for us to navigate 3-D reality.

Another example of a subtle place where patriarchal Saturn stops our progress is the person who tries to be the absolute best they can possibly be on a chosen spiritual path. This person follows the rules of the Guru better than anybody, does the perfect diet, holds the perfect posture the longest, does any number of similar things thinking this is the path to enlightenment.

The challenge (or unfairness) is that nothing happens for them. Many spiritual traditions have stock stories about the best disciple of the Guru, the one who serves and follows the teachings exactly. Everyone is getting enlightened except that disciple. The disciple is confused and upset and doesn't understand what they have done wrong.
The Saturn message is this: knowing the rules and following the rules perfectly is not what gets you through. Doing so actually becomes the greatest of all traps. So whether it is getting X amount of money, getting the ideal body, being number one in your class, or being the best you can possibly be on the spiritual path, it is still a trap. At a certain point it is about getting the joke. This means it is about coming to the realization that meeting some standard in and of itself is not the key to liberation or fulfillment.

It’s not that the rules go away; what changes is your relationship to the rules and your relationship to Saturn. It is about making friends with Saturn and having Saturn as an ally. You may still be a person who does a good job and is disciplined. What changes is why you are doing it. It is no longer about getting to some specific goal. The reason to do what you are doing is because it is fun to do, or fun to be that way.

As a Capricorn Moon, I think about this all the time. I have to be doing what I am doing because I love it. The moment I am doing something for any other reason, especially if I am doing it because I am feeling guilty or needing to atone for something, I quickly find myself in the Saturn trap. There is no additional reward no matter how perfect I am at doing what I do.

A great question to ask whenever you are doing anything is, "Why am I doing this?" For me the answer is, "Because I am an entertainer and the person I am most entertaining is myself."

This is how to begin creating a new relationship with Saturn. Saturn with the Moon is the harshest experience of invalidating the Moon qualities. This means continuing to operate from the Moon will continue to produce the most unfair circumstances possible, creating a disconnect so something new can be experienced.

**Pisces Moon**

There are certain tribal trainings that are givers. There is one archetypal training that receives (Taurus), several that can play both sides, and some that are totally neutral on the issue of giving and receiving.
Cancer, Pisces, Virgo, and Capricorn are givers. These signs do not know who they are except through what they are doing for others or giving to others. The Pisces Moon has mastered the skill of being in service through helping and healing.

One of the biggest differences between Cancer and Pisces, even though both operate out of the feeling function and both are giver signs, is that they have different criteria for giving. Pisces is the empathic, sensitive giver without any discrimination about whom they are helping. Cancer, on the other hand, while also sensitive, reserves their giving for their family, clan, or tribe. Pisces has the same degree of empathic sensitive giving for everyone.

From the perspective of Shamanic Astrology, the feminine principle is a twelve spoke wheel, and each spoke of the wheel is presided over by a different goddess, a different story, a different set of themes. Patriarchy has managed to limit these twelve expressions into three roles: woman as mother (Cancer), woman as girlfriend or wife (Libra), and woman as nurse (Pisces).

As valid as these three roles are, this is obviously not the entire spectrum of the feminine. The Pisces, Cancer, and Libra Moons are easily channeled into these three roles. Pisces Moon for a woman can also show up and play the role of a Cancer Moon or a Libra Moon, because the Pisces Moon role can easily be expressed through family and marriage.

If a woman has a Pisces Moon, she has already demonstrated expansion of the heart, sensitivity, and compassion. This Moon position can easily fall into the trap of co-dependent relationships, where a person gives and gives and gives, expecting and assuming there will eventually be a worthwhile return. The joke is the Pisces Moon has already experienced lifetimes where they did get a return for being a masterful giver.

If you are signed up for Pisces training (e.g. Pisces Rising or Venus or Mars in Pisces), there is feedback through validation and reward. If you are a giver in a healthy way and that is what it is you are here to do, you will get helpful feedback through validation. When a mother has a child, she doesn't have to think, "If I love my child, he or she will love me back." It is an automatic exchange that takes place.
Someone with a Pisces Moon might think it is their job to be there for this person or to be there for a group and to be a giving, loving, sensitive person. If you have a Pisces Moon, understand that WAS your job. If a Pisces Moon is playing the role of giver and not being validated for their giving, it is not a character flaw. It is a misunderstanding.

When the Pisces Moon continues to give and does not receive a return commensurate to what they have given, they begin to feel something is wrong.

How does the Pisces Moon react to that? Very often, they give more! Still nothing changes. Now they know something is definitely wrong, and conclude they are in an unfair system. This means they get angry and try to force the other person to respond in the way they think they should respond.

This is the worst downside of being the giver: expecting to get a certain return, and when that doesn’t happen, trying to force the person to give them that return. Again this is simply a misunderstanding. The Pisces Moon already has a Ph.D. in giving. There is no additional reward for continuing to live the Pisces path, because it is time to develop something else.

The way to validate a Pisces Moon when they are scared or overwhelmed is to tell them how safe and supported you feel with them. However it is important to remember, if being safe and supportive for others is all the Pisces Moon is doing, it is an addiction.

**Men Who Have Pisces Moon**

A woman with a Pisces Moon is going to be much more easily channeled into something deemed acceptable by the culture. A man with a Pisces Moon almost without exception is not going to get validation for his sensitivity and healing ability. There are exceptions depending on the aspects to the Moon or if the Pisces Moon man happened to have sensitive parents. However, for the most part he is NOT going to get any validation for his skill set.

I think we could safely say of the four functions (intuitive function, thinking function, sensation function, and feeling function, or Fire, Air, Earth, and Water), the one that has been the least developed in our culture is the feeling function. This is especially true if you are born male.
If a man doesn't get validation for his Pisces Moon, he is being cut off from his roots. Therefore, the experience of compassion, feeling, and giving could develop into a source of pain. It is easy to imagine that there are a lot of wounds associated with that.

Another way we could look at this is as follows. These days, generally speaking, women have two complaints about men. Either men don't share their feelings or men are not interested in relating. Of the men who appear to not be interested in sharing their feelings, there are generally two types.

It is primarily fire sign men who are not interested in relating. So if you want to have shared experiences with this type of man, forget it. It is like squeezing water out of a stone. It's not going to happen. You will either have to develop your own independent life or you are going to have to play the old traditional role of being the feelings for this type of man. The feeling function is just not there for these types of men, and it is likely they are not even here to work on that.

The other type of man who doesn't share his feelings may have an incredibly well developed feeling function, but they have been deeply wounded. One of the hardest things for a man with a wounded feeling function is to be with a woman who encourages him to share his feelings and then when he does share with her, she leaves. The last thing she really wanted was to take all that on.

Men with Water Moons are feeler types, however, due to various cultural wounds, a lot of men with Water Moons have learned to shut down their feelings as a way to protect themselves.

Comment: As a Pisces Moon man I have found I am often teaching women how to be feminine. And my deepest relationship with God came through my understanding of the feminine that I got when I learned how to surrender.

Response: What you just said is a brilliant subtheme for the Pisces Moon. When it does not translate into a personal householder path, it is the man or woman who is a Bhakti version of God. Not intellectual God, but God as lover, or the union with God through devotion.
Taurus Moon

To understand the original Taurus teachings we have to travel back in time before patriarchy when Aphrodite represented the qualities of genuine intimacy. Long before the patriarchy came along, Aphrodite was interested in being beautiful for herself. She told her suitors that they could be with her if they honored, loved, and savored her in a way that was befitting her status.

Aphrodite reminded her suitors that they didn’t own her. Not only that, she would be intimate with anyone who met her standards. From this perspective, Aphrodite was not a pair bonder or a monogamous married type, but she was also not promiscuous. She had the highest standards. No one could be with her unless they met these high standards.

The marvelous work "THE GODDESS IN EVERY WOMAN" by Jean Bolen is an astrological textbook, even though astrology is never mentioned. She describes three categories of Goddesses. There are the autonomous or virgin Goddesses. Virgin, in this case, is describing a woman who is complete unto herself, rather than the current understanding of a woman who has not yet had sex. Virgin Goddesses do NOT have to be with anyone to know who they are.

Then there are the vulnerable Goddesses. They are the ones who choose to be married and define themselves by their relationship, or by their children, or by their family connection.

The third category has only one Goddess, Aphrodite. She is paradoxical, because on the one hand she doesn't pair bond (marry) so she is not vulnerable in that sense. She also isn't known for being a mother, but she must be intimate to know who she is. Therefore, she is not a virginal autonomous type either. She merges the autonomous and vulnerable qualities together.

In ancient times it was the Aphrodite woman who would initiate the young boys. She was also invited into the bridal chamber to make sure the bridal couple knew what they were doing.
Demetra George gives us additional insights into original Taurus training describing what took place on the island of Lesbos. It was not specifically about lesbianism, it was about intimacy based on friendship. Therefore, it was men with women, men with men, women with women, and gender was irrelevant. It had to do with intimacy. Since Taurus is an earth sign we are not talking about Platonic love, but rather an in-the-body connection based on friendship.

Taurus is a Tantric mystery school along with Scorpio and has to do with life force energy, as it relates to the essence of intimacy. Taurus training has two primary facets.

One facet is aesthetics, not only the knowledge of aesthetics, but a full in-the-body experience of what is beautiful. The other facet is about the deepest experience of intimacy, which includes becoming a master of intimacy.

From our current cultural perspective both men and women with a Taurus Moon have most likely experienced invalidation or violation. When we consider that Aphrodite chose to be beautiful for herself, and not for men, we can see the deep violation that has occurred within this archetype.

The way women are used in advertising in western culture is an example of how the Venus image has been exploited, and there are plenty of men and women who go along with it. It is important to keep in mind that this has nothing to do with the original expression of Aphrodite.

**Taurus Moon for a Man**

It is interesting to note that both Taurus and Aries are narcissistic and centered on self. This is why Aphrodite is looking at herself in the mirror. A man with a Taurus Moon is often a lover and master of intimacy. However they can also be lazy and not give much energy to their relationships, because they are master receivers of the energy. Taurus is not a giver; rather it is the one and only archetype that has to do with receiving, enjoying, and savoring pleasure.
At the other end of the spectrum is the practical Taurus Moon who desires financial security, and they are willing to work for it, sometimes at high cost of their ability to enjoy life. The Pluto in Leo generation with Taurus Moon often has challenging Pluto aspects to the Moon. This means men with Taurus Moon do not get validation for their best qualities. Healing occurs when they are finally in a position to receive again. Addiction to the Taurus Moon often shows up as a kept woman or man, including courtesan types and gigolos.

When unviolated, the Taurus Moon is often tremendously comfortable and healthy in their sensuality. However, if Pluto squares the Moon then it is common for a violation to occur (usually with some kind of sexual abuse or religious overlay). The lesson or message they receive is that being in-the-body is not safe.

The good news (if there is any good news) is this strategy means a person is no longer over identified with Taurus. This may seem harsh, but it does allow for something different to emerge and be developed. Then at some point the wound has to be healed, so the Taurus Moon can know who they really are. The healing is successful when they can again know the full range of cellular, spiritual intimacy in the body.

The wounded or freaked out Taurus Moon can be brought back to balance by getting a massage or doing something that has to do with the physical or the sensual. Treat them as someone who knows what is really good.

**Sagittarius Moon**

The Sagittarius Moon is a non-householder lineage. Householders are the mothers and fathers, the community leaders, the ones who are concerned with sustainable ways of living. Non-householders are the ones who focus on their spiritual path and are usually not engaged in householder activities.

The essence and focus of Sagittarius is the spiritual quest, the expansion of the self to the widest possible horizons, boldly going where no one has gone before. It is the quest for truth and meaning. Sagittarius is interested in the vision quest, to connect with spirit, and to expand their experience as far as possible.
Some mythological stories that best describe the Sagittarius Moon are *The Voyages of Odysseus*, *The Twelve Labors of Hercules*, and if combined with Water Signs elsewhere in the chart, *The Quest for the Holy Grail*. We also might find the Sagittarius Moon climbing the mountain to find the Guru who will teach them profound spiritual truths.

The Sagittarius Moon does not have much, if any, understanding or interest in personal intimate relationship as part of their skill set.

This is because the emphasis in their prior training was on the meaning of life, the quest for the truth, or the adventure itself. This is important to know when you are with a Sagittarius Moon. They may be working on learning about relationships or intimacy skills this life, but that would be new territory for them.

When the Sagittarius Moon is scared or over their head, give them space and time to connect with their inner or outer Guru. Support them in going to a workshop, or support them in going (and even go with them) on an adventure. This is not the time to extract intimacy from them. They need space. The quickest way to bring the Sagittarius Moon back into balance is to validate their spiritual path, have a philosophical conversation with them, or go on a vision quest with them.

A woman with a Sagittarius Moon is a Questing Amazon, meaning her identity is based upon her accomplishments and her achievements especially on a spiritual path. She might talk about emotions, especially in the context of seeking some spiritual truth associated with them, but it is not from a feeling function context.

**Scorpio Moon**

Scorpio training is the exact merging of will and desire and, thus, the command of the feeling function. Scorpio does not operate theoretically; rather it operates out of gaining mastery in the realm of the feelings and the emotions. It is a Tantric energy where the current of life itself is the path to enlightenment.
The Scorpio path, 4 to 8 thousand years ago, was associated with the path of sorcery and magic. Why? The path of sorcery is developing the will in order to command the feelings.

Scorpio has been greatly misunderstood and invalidated by patriarchy as the feeling function has been repressed, denied, and suppressed. Hence, when the Scorpio Moon comes into this life, they do not get validation for their feeling function. Additionally, the Scorpio Moon usually resonates with the sense of having been burned at the stake for their intensity, and/or ability to command life force energy.

Most Scorpio Moons feel that if they really spoke the truth about who they are, what they feel, or what they desire, they would not be safe. Historically, a great many European women were killed for simply gathering herbs or having strong opinions.

**Question:** Why is it that people with strong Scorpio often are drug addicts or alcoholics, or they seem to want to get really close to danger?

This has to do with the feeling function. Part of the challenge for Scorpio at this time is there is not much in the way of healthy Scorpio training, especially for men. Scorpio is designed to be in its power through the feelings – through experiencing passionate energy.

**Question:** Martial Arts seem to be a form of Scorpio training, but there is the side of Martial Arts that appears to be in total denial of feelings.

That is a very interesting point. It is similar to what happens when a person is born with Scorpio Moon, and they remember being in command of their feelings, similar to the Leo Moon who comes in with the memory of having been the star. However, neither remembers the training they actually took to achieve these things.

The original essence of the so called Martial Arts did not only include an awareness that the true human state is beyond life and death, but rather it exists in a realm that is very passionate including the feeling function.
What we see today is the denial of the feelings. What we now understand as Martial Arts, including the denial of feelings in the Eastern Cultures, is exactly the same predicament we find with Scorpio Energy. They all need to become healthy in the feelings and then be in a state of mastery over them.

Scorpio has a reputation of being an “edgewalker.” The way Scorpio learns is not by reading about a danger, but by experiencing it. It is about finding out how they will react to being on the edge. In our current time, there is not any real training for this.

Madame Pele, Kali, Durga, the Cretan Snake Goddess, and Hecate are a few of the Goddesses associated with Scorpio. When the patriarchy took the Scorpio teachings away from women, they turned it into wizard craft and wizard lore. Even the Tantric teachings were originally women’s mysteries that were later controlled by men. Patriarchy felt it was important to prevent women from realizing they were the ones who had original mastery over the Scorpio mysteries.

The Scorpio Moon is a complex issue, because on one hand, most everybody with this Moon has to be rehabilitated, so they can feel good about their lineage, but at the same time they are required to let go of their attachment to their will and having things their way. When the Scorpio Moon stands on the foundation of a healthy sorcery and a women’s mystery lineage, they are combining Will with Desire and not being attached to it.

When a Scorpio Moon is out of balance, give them a lot of credit for their knowledge, power, and strength. Let them be the sorceress or the magician, let them go deep, honor their intensity, and honor their depth. Try not to be afraid of them, except for that small amount of fear that is respect for who they are.

Aquarius Moon
The only other lineage that is similar to Aquarius is Sagittarius, as both operate outside of the physical and emotional realm. The Aquarius Moon is the one who is purely intellectual, writing books about relationships even though they may have never actually have had a relationship. Or perhaps they live in an ashram and are on a Satvic spiritual path, refining their awareness to higher and higher levels.
The Aquarius Moon is the type of person who doesn't want you to get too close physically, because you might mess up their energetic field.

They also may not have previously been embodied in 3-D reality, so this life represents a new grand experiment. Hence, we find in traditional astrology the idea that Aquarians will try anything. What they are really looking for is the ability to translate this 3-D experience back into the higher chakras. Despite the fact that some men and women with Aquarius Moon have been completely wild and have tried everything, what they are really going for is a new way to connect with spirit.

If an Aquarius Moon has a lot of Earth and Water signs on the progressive part of their chart, they are here to descend fully into the physical and emotional realm. From their lineage perspective this is entirely new territory.

How do you honor Aquarius Moon when they are scared or feeling overwhelmed? Similar to the Sagittarius Moon, it is best to give them space. This is not the time to extract intimacy from them. It helps to remember this is a general rule that may not always apply in every case, all the time, because the Moon positions might be modified by other factors, such as the sign of Venus, Mars, and/or the Ascendant. However, the general rule does apply most of the time and it is a helpful strategy to know if you or someone you know has an Aquarius or Sagittarius Moon.

There is a masculine path or expression and a feminine path or expression for all the signs. Each of these also has many gradations and variations. The fire and air paths are moving toward spirit. The earth and water paths are descending into the physical and emotional.

On the path of fire and air there are some extreme versions that might express in a similar way to the laws of Manu. In these laws, a man is warned that if you want to get enlightened, avoid women at all costs. Do not have entrapment in the physical and the emotional, but go for consciousness and refinement of spirit. This point of view believes it is important to separate the pure from what is considered impure.
The Earth and Water paths are the opposite; they are more Tantric. The fire/air paths look at Maya as the grand illusion and believes it is essential to free or extricate one’s self from this illusion. The earth/water paths, or the Tantric paths, look at Maya, or this life we are living, as the Dance, and if you want to get enlightened, you better learn to dance. This path is about getting enlightened through full emersion, dancing and mastering the energy.

**Question:** Do you equate Aquarius with Intellect?

Yes, Intellect and Spirit. That is why foreplay for Aquarius is meditating together where they can meet their lover in the higher realms.

**Capricorn Moon**

Those with Capricorn Moon were the elders who held it together for everyone. Their job in any culture was to play the role of knowing the rules and to be there in a responsible way for others. They were the grandfathers, the grandmothers, the prime ministers, the tribal leaders, the teachers, and the counselors.

On the shadow side, this includes the imagery of the scapegoat that comes from the original Yom Kippur ritual. In this ritual there were two goats used. One goat was killed or sacrificed in a sacred way and the blood was placed on the altar. The other goat had strapped to its back symbols, images, and icons, representing the sins of the community.

The goat was then sent out into the wilderness to carry the away these burdens. The goat was selected because he was strong enough to carry these symbols and make it in the wilderness. However, there came a time when the goat began to believe he was responsible for all of the problems. That was the beginning of the complex.
The downside of the Capricorn Moon is they often believe they are somehow responsible for the problems of the family or community or even the world, and they must do an infinite amount of atonement to get rid of these problems. The positive side of Capricorn is somebody has to know the rules and how to hold it together.

If you have a Capricorn Moon, this is NO longer your job. If you have Capricorn Rising, then it is what you are learning how to do.

The challenge for the Capricorn Moon is that they desire respect and also that they have an important and responsible function they can manage and control. However, every Capricorn Moon should know that even if they had such a role, it would be insufficient to their liberation. No additional reward comes from continuing to play the role of the Moon.

A great strategy for the Capricorn Moon is to ask "How would I choose to live my life, if I didn't have a Capricorn Moon, if I did not have a function?"

How do you bring the Capricorn Moon back into balance when they are overwhelmed or freaked out? Give them something responsible and important to do and then tell them they did a good job. Conversely, the shadow side of the Capricorn Moon is activated when they are told they are being irresponsible, that they don’t know what they are doing, and they are incompetent.

**Question:** If you have a talent and a skill, you can't use it all the time if it is your Moon, but the Universe knows you are good at it, you will get to use it if you are healthy with it?

Yes. If you have a healthy relationship with your Moon and are not attached to it, then you get to use the skills of your Moon to serve the current life intent as long as you are not using it more than one third of time. Otherwise it either is, or becomes, an addiction.
Cancer Moon

The primary identity for a Cancer Moon would have been through the children or the family. In the Cancer tribe you do not have a personal identity other than your connection to your family members. It is not an individuated training. It is a training based upon your connection to your progeny or to your family. Or, in some cases, it’s your connection to your clients or students.

If a man comes in with a Cancer Moon, whether he was male or female previously, he would have been performing the role of RESPONSIBLE NURTURING. Looking at the rest of the chart indicates whether or not he is too over identified with the Moon, or if there has been violation or invalidation.

If a person has a Cancer Moon and Scorpio Rising, then the current life intent is to shift the focus from family and caring for others, to developing a strong individuated self. Even if this person is given marvelous validation for being an incredible, sensitive, and giving person, it would be insufficient to their liberation. It is a challenge to really love yourself, to be sensitive and giving on the one hand, and to also be able to move to the next level. In this case the new territory is the development of a core self. Scorpio, for example, is an energy that operates through personal intimacy. Cancer may or may not be personally intimate in anything but a vertical or hierarchical way.

In the 20’s and 30’s Cancer type men were excellent providers and good fathers, but generally had very little time for personal intimacy with their wife.

Capricorn and Cancer share a lot of similarities. The difference is Cancer operates out of the feeling function, and Capricorn operates out of the sensation function. Capricorn does it out of responsibility and duty, whereas Cancer does it out of love, empathy, and sensitivity.

How do you bring the Cancer Moon back into balance when they are overwhelmed or freaked out? Let them know they are doing a good job at creating a safe space that is loving and nurturing their progeny, community, and/or projects. However, if that is all they are doing, it is an addiction.
Aries Moon

The Aries Moon has developed the qualities of a strong protector or warrior. Aries training combines the qualities of trust, innocence, and courage. The Aries Moon comes in with the ability to make a 100% commitment to a noble cause or purpose.

Aries does NOT have sensitivity to how others feel or what their experience is. They can only have their own experience. This is what lets them get away with showing up late and cutting in line! Or, more seriously, they may be extremely one-sided in battle or competitions, without empathy or compassion.

How do you bring the Aries Moon back into balance? Encourage them to do something active and fun. Let them play, or play with them in a competitive way. Don't try to extract intimacy at that time, except through play.

Comment: When a person can accept Aries qualities as being innocent, not get upset about it, and realize that is just the way they are, then Aries can be perceived as charming.

Yes. Aries like Leo can be very charismatic and inspiring.

Gemini Moon

There are some things in Gemini training that are similar to Aries. They both seem to share the imagery of the Puer or Puella, the eternal youth. The Gemini Moon comes from a lineage that is also footloose and fancy free, but without the one-pointed commitment of Aries.

Aries is clearly a masculine sign. For women with strong Aries it expresses as the Amazon type who knows herself through her own accomplishments and achievements. Gemini, however, is more spirit oriented, and less Masculine/Feminine polarized. It is magical. It is the troubadour minstrel, the trickster magician, the coyote, and the court jester. The Court Jester is the only one who could tell the king the truth and not be killed, because the Jester is not threatening.
The Gemini Moon played the role of the trickster who reminded everyone not to take themselves too seriously. Now they are often here to learn what it is like to be at the effect of the rules and what it means to be responsible. They are learning to be in third dimensional reality, and to deal with boundaries. Yet, the freedom place for Gemini Moon is to be connected to an approach to life that is magical.

Women (and some men) with Gemini Moon may not have gotten any support at all for their lineage. Rehabilitation for Gemini Moon is to reconnect with the creative Muse, reconnect with spirit, and reconnect with humor and unrestricted freedom. For women, this has nothing whatsoever to do with the patriarchal feminine principle. It is not in the body and it is not in the emotions or feelings, rather it is about connecting into the creative spirit.

The way to bring a person with Gemini Moon back into balance is to laugh at their jokes and allow them to do crazy things. Don't suppress their spontaneity. Let them have fun, and don't make them be serious and responsible. When Gemini Moon is out of balance in an intimate relationship, do not try to extract intimacy at that time. Instead try to reach them through their mind, maybe by discussing a book you have read, or go to a party and let them be socially gregarious.

**Virgo Moon**

First and foremost, Virgo has been radically and wrongly interpreted by Patriarchy, having acquired a reputation for being critical and judgmental. Virgo’s job was to master the art of attuning to the pattern of life. This Moon position has not had an honored place in patriarchal culture and most Virgo Moons need to get their power back.

**How can Virgo Moon get their power back?**

They can begin by becoming aware of the original essence of Virgo that was the priestess lineage. Paired with the Scorpio Moon, both signs have energy associated with the most powerful images of the matriarchy. Virgo Moon tends to get angry for not being honored or recognized for their work, because they have memories of time periods in the past where they did get recognition and honor.
In recent years, women with Virgo Moon have been greatly violated because the only thing they got to do was get married and have babies. They may have done a good job of it, but it was not one of the things Virgo originally did as their primary objective.

Both men and women with Virgo Moon may be workaholics and focused on their work. However, if it is not a sacred work, it is still a disconnect from the essence Virgo. If all a Virgo Moon does is work (even if it is a sacred work), it is an addiction to the lineage and insufficient to their liberation.

When out of balance or overwhelmed, the Virgo Moon is supported by going to a sacred space and connecting to a sacred function. This is not a time to try and extract an intimate connection with them.

**Summary**

Now, let's put some of these pieces together. Once you get a sense of what the training has been with each of the Moons (and there are many more details for each one), you can begin to access these archetypes and come up with images of your own.

One of great things about working with archetypes is in knowing you are on the right track when a person’s eyes light up and you know they are tuned in to what you are saying. The language of archetypes is a sacred language. Astrology is the sacred language of archetypes and symbols. Knowing what the training has been for the different Moon tribes is the first step.

If you want to know what to do with the training from your Moon tribe in the current life, look to see what house the Moon now occupies. However, that is only the beginning of the journey. Once you know your lineage, and you are no longer attached to it, meaning you have healed the wounds connected to that lineage, then you can have a healthy sense of how your lineage is serving your current life purpose.

If you have a good solid sense of the archetypes for the twelve signs, then you can plug those
archetypes into the chart dynamic. For example, if you are looking at the Moon associated with a person's past. Or maybe you are looking at the current life intent or what the person is working on. It is the knowledge of the archetypes themselves that allows this to come alive.

There is a Richie Havens song, “Zodiac”, that essentially says there are only twelve people on the planet and if you understand who these twelve people are, you will understand they are all valid, they are all worthwhile, they all have a contribution to make, and no matter where you are on the planet, at any time or any place, you can get along with everyone.

**NOTE About Aspects:**
When planets form a relationship by aspect as described below it adds additional information to our understanding. If you are still uncertain what this means this is explained in detail in both the Script and Archetypes online class and the Shamanic Astrology Basics Course.

**More on the next page...**
Defining Aspects on the Natal Chart
Aspects are the number of degrees between planets. Shamanic Astrology focuses on the conjunction, square, and opposition. Also listed below are the elements of the sign: Fire, Earth, Air, and Water. Like elements form a trine to each other.

More In-Depth Explanations on the Archetypes is in The Shamanic Astrology Handbook

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<tr>
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<td>0 Degrees/Orb of 10</td>
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<td>150 Degrees/Orb of 05</td>
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Squares
- Aries Squares Cancer and Capricorn
- Taurus Squares Leo and Aquarius
- Gemini Squares Virgo and Pisces
- Cancer Squares Aries and Libra
- Leo Squares Taurus and Scorpio
- Virgo Squares Gemini and Sagittarius

Oppositions
- Aries Opposite Libra
- Taurus Opposite Scorpio
- Gemini Opposite Sagittarius
- Cancer Opposite Capricorn
- Leo Opposite Aquarius
- Virgo Opposite Pisces

Sign Energy
- Householder
- Self-Interest
- In Service to Spirit
- Householder
- Self-Interest
- In Service to Spirit

Trines
- Aries Trine Leo Trine Sagittarius
- Taurus Trine Virgo Trine Capricorn
- Gemini Trine Libra Trine Aquarius
- Cancer Trine Scorpio Trine Pisces

Elements
- Fire/Masculine
- Earth/Feminine
- Air/Masculine
- Water/Feminine