

Moon magick ©

This report looks at some magickal activities that can be done with the moon, apposite really (at the time of writing) in view of the full super blood moon and forthcoming lunar eclipse. It is likely that one could write a book on this topic, but here I've looked at the different moon phases and some practical magick during those times.

Naming the moon

First things first though – let's start by considering the different adjectives applied to the lunar months during the year – well, not all of them, but some of the more common ones given to the full moon in each month. In the end, I decided on a table, but the sources range from First Nation tribes to Gardnerian Wicca and from Celtic to agricultural.

Month	Moon names
January	Hunger, wolf, cold
February	Snow, quickening
March	Worm, sap, storm, chaste
April	Pink, rain, wind, egg, seed, crow
May	Flower, milk, hare
June	Rose, strawberry, sun, honey, lover's
July	Deer, blessing, hay, thunder, mead
August	Sturgeon, fish, corn, grain, wort, barley
September	Corn, fruit, harvest
October	Hunter's, harvest, blood, falling leaf
November	Beaver, mourning, frost
December	Cold, oak, long night

Moon **timings** are important too. That's why this report is split into the four main moon phases or quarters and your spells need to be aligned with the appropriate moon phase. Each complete cycle of the moon lasts 28 days and there are four phases of roughly 7-8 days apiece. Within the 28-day period, there are several distinct stages, ie:

- New moon.
- Waxing crescent.
- Waxing quarter.
- Waxing gibbous.
- Full moon.
- Waning gibbous.
- Waning quarter.
- Waning crescent.
- And a dark or no moon period.

Note: *crescent* means that the moon is less than half-lit and *gibbous* means that the moon is more than half-illuminated.

From the magickal standpoint, a general rule of thumb is that:

- Sunset is good for spells involving new beginnings.
- Sunrise is a good time for divination magick.
- Midnight is a good time for the banishment of obstacles, attitudes or habits

And a **blue moon** occurs when there are two full moons in one calendar month. A blue moon permits extra power to a spell, but it is vital that you are very focused and specific in your intent.

New moon

A new moon is the first phase of each lunar cycle and corresponds with the east wind. It represents the maiden aspect of the Goddess as part of new moon rituals. For example, within the Gylden River area, regular new moon rituals are held on Eastney beach.

Any new moon ritual will emphasise the start of new cycles or growth/new development – perhaps the planting of seeds. Any magick may involve writing invocations for health or personal issues and longer term forward planning. Scott Cunningham said that the new moon phase was a good time for love and romance – the following spell is supposed to attract a future partner.

What you will need: red or pink thread, as many cherry stones as years of your age, a small piece of red jasper and a sharp tool for making holes (such as a brad or a skewer).

1. The spell starts with the first night of a new moon.
2. Drill a hole in one of the cherry stones.
3. Repeat this task on each successive night until the moon starts to wane, perhaps after 13-14 nights.
4. Do not drill any more holes in the stones.
5. When the next new moon appears, thread the cherry stones onto your red or pink thread.
6. With the red jasper in your receptive hand, chant thrice, "*Let the Goddess hear my plea, Send enduring love to me*".
7. Tie the thread around your left knee and sleep with it attached for 14 nights.

There are several spells that can be done during the period from the new moon to the full moon. A waxing moon represents growth, eg love affairs, fertility, increased health or well-being, the planting of magickal herbs or the start of longer incantations. The two spells below are best done in this period – one for lifestyle changes and the other for producing increased energies for magick.

Waxing Moon: increased power to all spells

1. Take a single stone or crystal during the period between the new moon and the full moon. Could be a moonstone, but could also be anything you carry with you, eg aquamarine, rutilated quartz or amethyst.
2. Now that I think about it, you could use silver during this time, providing that it is, say, sterling silver, because silver allows the wearer to appreciate purity and clarity of thought.
3. Carry or wear the stone day and night until the moon waxes to full.
4. The stone will absorb some of the power of the waxing moon and affect your attitudes in this period.
5. For example, you may feel drawn towards meditation or solitary reflection. Or, you could develop new creative interests.
6. Try to follow these changes in yourself as they are evidence of the moon's enrichment to your spirit.

As the moon waxes to full, take a little time each evening to drink an infusion of chamomile or other herbal/ fruit tea and sit drinking it either in the garden or on a balcony in the moonlight. Do this for about a week before the full moon.

There are no incantations or actions to make - just relax in the moonlight away from all gadgets, phones, TV, etc. Concentrate on absorbing some of the moon's power. During the few days of the full moon, you should find that you have extra energy or power for any spells you wish to cast.

Here's another little spell - to **boost self-esteem** and take back some semblance of control in your life.

What you will need: a small piece of paper, a pen, a tea light and holder, a fire-proof dish and a lighter or matches.

1. Ensure that you are in a quiet place.
2. Put the tea light in its holder and light it.
3. Ask the Goddess to help you regain control of your life.
4. Write out this incantation on the piece of paper, "*Hidden agendas – their powers are gone, I'm in control from this day on, From the fire to come – my life is free, Controlled no more and my enemies flee*".
5. Chant it aloud 3 times before using the tea light to set fire to the paper and let it burn out in the fire-proof dish.

Full moon

This is the second phase of the lunar cycle and corresponds with the south wind. From a magickal standpoint, it's a good time for healing or fertility spells. Each full moon has a special appeal for those who work moon magick – here are some common areas:

- Personal, spiritual development.
- Drawing down the moon for extra strength.
- A full moon release spell for healing or protection.
- The cleansing of crystals or magickal tools.

Drawing down the moon for extra strength is not a hard spell to do, but it does need to be written from scratch. This is not to be borrowed from the internet if a witch is asking the Goddess for personal strength. Here's an incantation of mine, used in 2018, as an example. I took advantage of a full, blue moon due to the power needed for the second part of the spell.

1. To be performed shortly after moonrise on a full, blue moon.
2. Outside is best, but it can be done indoors.
3. Create the altar needed = your totems or statuettes.
4. Cleanse yourself, stand with arms across chest, feet together, facing the full moon.
5. *"Goddess of the Moon, Brigid to my belief, you are universal and forever – in the darkest night, you give light and love to us. I ask you, blessed One, to grant me some of your presence and energies within my heart."*
6. Move your feet apart, raise your arms and welcome the moonlight into you.
7. *"Help me on this night of the full, blue moon of March by granting your power for a little time to my heart for healing. It is your universal strength, wisdom and clear sight that perceives my purpose this night and aids my call."*
8. *"I feel your presence in me – Brigid, the Lady of Nature, the Lady of the Moon and the Stars. Together, we are the rocks and soil, the rushing waters of rivers and streams, the blazing fires and the constant zephyrs – we are also the eagles that soar on the winds and see the lands below our wings. I feel your presence and we are together."*
9. Take a moment to feel her presence and visualise the eagle's/ moon's view of forests, rivers, mountains and bonfires in the steads. And breathe deeply to infuse the moonlight into the forest of the soul, lowering the arms.
"Brigid, I thank you for granting me your love tonight – we are empowered."

With each full moon comes the likelihood of **esbats**, ie lunar rituals held on the first night of a full moon. Commonly, an esbat ritual honours the mother aspect of the Goddess and is often a part of Wiccan pathways.

An esbat is not so different from a sabbat, ie the actual ritual can include dances, songs, magick, prayers to the Goddess and an exchange of cake/mead. In some cases, esbats are the domain of closed covens, but that is not the rule and any number of people can celebrate an esbat.

Waning moon

The waning moon is the third phase and corresponds with the west wind. It is the period during which the moon goes from full to dark once again. Like the waxing moon phase, it lasts about two weeks. In many traditions of witchcraft, this time of the lunar cycle is used to do magick that sends away, gets rid of or destroys things you no longer wish to be a burden, ie:

- ✚ Casting off jobs or tasks.
- ✚ More internal reflection.
- ✚ Banishment of personal negativity (see spell below).
- ✚ Reduction of debts or money problems.
- ✚ Elimination of health problems.
- ✚ Letting go of the old.
- ✚ Cutting of magickal herbs or flowers.

What you will need: a bowl or cauldron of water, salt, cloth, table & athame.

1. Sprinkle some salt on the cloth.
2. Use the athame to bless the salt, eg "*I bless this salt to make it fit for our spell. Blessed Be.*"
3. Add the salt to the water; one person holds the bowl up towards the sky.
4. Each person visualises their deities, eg Brighid or Ceridwen.
5. All say: "*We ask you, Brighid/Ceridwen, to let this bowl receive all our negative feelings, so that we can cleanse ourselves and become whole again once more. Blessed Be.*"
6. The bowl is replaced safely on the table.
7. Each person dips their fingers and thumbs of both hands into the water and focuses on all their negative energies moving through their bodies, down through their arms and out of their hands into the water. As they do this, each person should be aware of becoming lighter, ie of losing the weight that has been on their minds.
8. When each person is sure that this is completed, they should take their hands from the bowl and any drops of water shaken into the bowl.
9. Each person grounds themselves again and the bowl held up again – all say "*We ask you, Brighid/Ceridwen, to take this negativity from us through your elemental power and to keep us safe in your hands. Blessed Be.*"

PS – you'll need to throw away the bowl of water into the earth after the spell, but well away from plants.

Dark moon

Some witches consider that a dark moon and magick are not compatible. This is not strictly true, as certain types of spells can be done during a dark moon, but it is important to know one's limits. A dark moon is the fourth phase and corresponds with the north wind.

The dark moon can be a good time to work on magick for the gaining of wisdom, meditation, justice spells, etc. It's also a good time for placing curses or hexes on enemies – all Wiccans look away now! Not that I've done curses for a long time, but understanding the process means that I feel able to run some really effective curse-breaker spells.

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