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SOLAR MAGIC

FULL MOON LUNAR ECLIPSE

ANGELS

PAGAN POETRY

GRIMOIRE



Crows Feet Press

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WITCH

Magazine

Welcome to the seventh issue of WITCH magazine.

If you have something you would like to share with us, contact us at www.witchzine.co.uk or email witchzine.submissions@gmail.com

-Bekki, Editor of WITCH magazine

Featuring...

Full Moon Lunar Eclipse in Capricorn

Angels

Witchgasm

Solar Magic

Tarot Spread

Book Review: Encountering the Dark Goddess

Poetry

Grimoire



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HONOURING THE DARK MOTHER - FULL MOON LUNAR ECLIPSE IN CAPRICORN

BY MICHELLE ROSE BOXLEY FOR SISTERS OF THE MOON

DEAR ONES WE ARE HEADING INTO YET ANOTHER ECLIPSE! THIS SUNDAY WE WILL HAVE A LUNAR ECLIPSE IN THE SIGN OF CAPRICORN. THE SUN WILL BE IN THE WATERY, EMOTIONAL AND NURTURING SIGN OF CANCER AND THE MOON WILL BE IN THE EARTHY, WISE AND MASTERFUL SIGN OF CAPRICORN. ECLIPSES ALWAYS OFFER US AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK EVEN DEEPER WITH OUR SHADOWS AND BRAVELY LOOK AT THE ASPECTS OF OURSELVES THAT ARE HOLDING US BACK FROM STEPPING INTO OUR POWER.

Capricorn is a feminine Earth sign, ruled by the planet Saturn. It's a cardinal sign so has those qualities of initiation and the sense of energies shifting. Saturn rules organization, structure, time, boundaries and practicality. For the New Moon in Cancer we looked at our relationship to our emotions and we discussed themes such as allowing ourselves to be nurtured and supported and being a good mother to ourselves as well as those around us. Under the influence of the Capricorn Full Moon, we can ask ourselves what boundaries do we need to put in place to help honour our emotional needs? You can ask yourself, where are you leaking energy? Sometimes, it's unavoidable when we need to be there for others and offer support but sometimes it's due to a lack of boundaries and taking on other people's emotional baggage. As we shift into the second half of the year, how can you establish better boundaries? What would they look like? One of the difficulties for Cancerians is that they feel IT ALL, so much sometimes that it can cripple them, boundaries in this context is so helpful, making sure that we are tending to our own emotional needs as well as those of others. The shadow side of the Cancer's Mother archetype can be it shifting into the Martyr. When we shift into this state, we deny others the opportunity to show their love and support for us. Showing loving kindness to others isn't always about us doing things for them, its about opening up to receive their gift of love too. In your journal, ask yourself, are you open to receive?



Due to Capricorn's placement in the Zodiac and it initiating winter in the Northern hemisphere, one of its archetypes is the Crone, or the Elder. When asserting boundaries it can be really helpful to step into the power of the Crone and assert yourself. Think of all the wisdom that you have gathered over the years about yourself and what you need. You know what you're about, you know who you are and you know what you need, sometimes we just get too easily swayed by others. The Crone does not, her days of dedicating an ounce of energy to what other people think are behind her. How much does what others think of you affect the choices and decisions you make? How could you listen to your inner elder more and the noise of the outside world less? Connect to the wisdom of winter and the archetype of the crone, trust your deep inner knowing and guidance. Channel your inner Baba Yaga :)



Capricorn is represented by the constellation of the Sea-goat. As always, we can draw powerful messages from astrological imagery. The Sea-goat represents the combination of the earthly, practical life (the goat) with the soul life (fish tale). This provides us with the wonderful opportunity to reflect on the balance between our work/worldly life and our soul life. Is our soul life something that we just squeeze in as and when we can? Or is it with us all day? What's our soul purpose and soul calling? Are we dedicated to it? Capricorns integrate their spirituality and soul purpose into their daily life. This is a beautiful quality and gives them this wise, grounded and magical energy. They also have the dedication and focus of the mountain goat and therefore are hard working and able to carry out their goals. Are we lacking in determination and focus?

One of the shadow sides of Cancer due to its attachment to home and nurturance is that it can get stuck, not wanting to move out of its comfort zone in order to pursue a dream, a goal or an ambition. Is this relevant for you? If so, how could you tune into that Mountain Goat energy and climb your way out of that place of feeling stuck?

ECLIPSE SELF CARE

It's more than likely that as we get closer to the Eclipse our emotions have been coming up to the surface and we might also be picking up on other people's energy too. It's really important to keep on top of energetically clearing your space on the lead up to a full moon and in particular an Eclipse. Use sacred smoke or essential oils to cleanse the energy of your home and take a cleansing Full Moon Salt bath - salts are also great for energetic cleansing:

FULL MOON BATH

Combine dead sea, Epsom and Himalayan pink salts and mix together well. Add in fresh Lavender from the garden and a few drops of Clary Sage, Juniper and Lavender essential oil (not suitable in pregnancy). Surround your bath with candles and crystals and enjoy a good soak.

CRYSTALS

Again, focus on crystals that will help you navigate the intense energies of the Eclipse but also to connect with shadow work and the Earth element of Capricorn - Onyx, Obsidian, Hematite, Pyrite, Clear Quartz and Smoky Quartz.

CACAO CEREMONY

Creating an at home Cacao Ceremony is a beautiful way to honour the Full Moon and will also help you to drop from head into heart. Cacao also helps us to ground and become present to our body. Sipping on Cacao whilst choosing oracle cards, meditating and journaling is a really powerful practice and then when the energy of the Cacao builds you might like to take yourself into a movement practice such as the Moon Salutations or have a good old dance to our playlist below :)

PLAYLIST

Here's a Lunar Eclipse playlist we made for you to enjoy!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4AI0Mf5o6Dtgi6DYadQkNq?si=z1jszRvDRweiKrafxnpu3A>

Really hope you've enjoyed our blog. wishing you a powerful and magical Lunar Eclipse xx

THIS ARTICLE WAS AN EXCERPT FROM
THE SISTERS OF THE MOON BLOG

READ THE FULL THING HERE:

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ANGELS

BY FAIRY BEC

WELCOME TO MY ARTICLE GIVING AN OVER VIEW OF HOW I PERCEIVE ANGELS. I HOPE YOU FIND IT INTERESTING AND THAT IT MAY GIVE YOU RE-ASSURANCE.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO START WITH THIS TOPIC SO I WILL START WITH A CONDENSED VERSION OF MY OWN EXPERIENCES. GROWING UP MY MOTHER WAS WHAT I WOULD CALL A 'SERIOUS CATHOLIC'. WE HAD TO ATTEND THE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, ESPECIALLY ON CHRISTMAS DAY. "IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, YOU SHOULD NOT BE OPENING YOUR PRESENTS." WAS HER LINE. AS MUCH AS I FELT OUT OF PLACE IN THE CHURCH, I REMEMBER LOOKING UP AT IMAGES OF ANGELS AND FEELING COMFORTED BY THEIR PRESENCE.

I see blue orbs a lot, always have and thought everyone could. Little twinkles of blue or large patches floating and shimmering. These are often accompanied by a bright white light or white orbs. I see them as both fairies and angels and I have often seen clusters around people to represent someone who has passed recently but is looking down on them. Sometimes they are like a window of light with a face looking through. I did not realise until I was in my 20s that this was not 'normal'. Now I understand that angels are beings of light.

One key moment of angelic presence was a vision I had one night as I was drifting off to sleep. I saw three angels flying down to Earth. One Archangel and two smaller angels flanking him either side. The next morning, someone very close by passed away. I actually felt a sense of peace that they were being taken somewhere so they too could join the angelic work being done in the spirit world.

I believe that we are all connected to one main angel. This does not mean that we have no access to any others but we have on 'chief' angel in charge. Sometimes this is an Archangel, sometimes someone who has passed and entered the angelic realm to support humans spiritually. I can't actually remember the exact moment I realised that Michael was my main guardian angel. What I do remember was his re-assurance that I was right and his continued support when I ask of it has no boundaries.

Now knowing that Michael is associated with the colour blue, the orbs make more sense in my life. I have also had several dreams where the only colour is blue and moments in my life when blue is dominant and sometimes all encompassing. Two key moments stand out and they are when I was in labour with my son and after I was hit by a car. The memories of both moments are surrounded in an electric blue haze. Both times I could have died but did not.

You can also use your angel connections to help other people. When my father in law was having his leg amputated, there was a 50% chance he would make it through. I sent Michael to him every time he was in the operating theatre and he recovered so remarkably every time he has been in hospital since that even the medical professionals continue to be astounded by his progress.

Signs that angels are near:-

- It is commonly thought that when we see white feathers, this is a sign of angelic presence.
- Black feathers re-assure you that protection is near.
- Dandelion seeds which remind you to trust your instincts.
- Matching/pairs of numbers. These are often on a digital clock and they re-assure you that angels are there for you. Common times are 11:11 and 22:22 but any matching number seen often throughout a day or week is a sure sign that the angels want you to know they are there. Sometimes, every time I look at my kitchen clock throughout the duration of a day, the numbers match!
- Sensations of warmth and comfort. I often feel wings being wrapped around me from behind and sometimes ask for them to do so.
- I have also heard accounts of songs coming on the radio that might be a little too appropriate for your mood, thoughts or current situation. This is also a sign of angelic presence letting you know that you are not alone on your journey.

- Have you ever noticed a moment when everything seems to suddenly go quiet? The birds cease singing for a split second, no traffic noise, no human noise. This is when an angel passes by you to check on you. Take some time to notice when this happens.
- Each Archangel has a colour attached to it. I will discuss this in more detail shortly. Michael is blue. I know he is present as I see electric bright blue. This bright blue has been present in my life a lot.

The Archangels:-

Everyone sees the angels in slightly different ways. Colour is such a fascinating subject because we all have such varying degrees of perception of colour.

What also fascinates me are the vary degrees of understanding of their names. For example, some people see Uriel and Ariel separate. I just see Uriel as the masculine side of Ariel. Michael comes to me as a very masculine, sometimes sexy, presence. However, the concept of gender and sex with the true form of the angel is actually obsolete. Angels are neither male or female. They are pure spiritual beings, beings of light. Us humans feel the need to categorise in order to understand. There is no right and wrong – trusting in your deepest instincts as to what feels right is the best way to find out for yourself.



Below is my interpretation of the seven key archangels:-

Name	Link	Colour
Ariel (sometimes known as Uriel)	The angel of nature and animals	Red
Chamuel	The angel of peace and relationships	Pinky orange
Jophiel	The angel of creativity and beauty	Yellow/gold
Raphael	The healer	Green
Michael	The warrior and protector	Blue
Zadkiel	The angel of forgiveness and memory	Purple
Gabriel	The messenger	White

To me, there is no accident that there are seven and they each have a colour of the rainbow associated with them. Just like the chakra energy points in our bodies.

The Bible

It would be churlish of me not to address the bible. Angels are discussed throughout the bible. The thing with the bible is that there are many translations and many interpretations of those translations. Again, this is a situation where your instinct and wider reading needs to come into play.

The most famous account in the bible of angelic presence is probably Gabriel lighting the way to Jesus’ manger. He was the light that the shepherd and kings followed. To my knowledge, Gabriel and Michael are the only named angels in all translations of the bible.

The most fascinating story for me is The Easter Story. There are several translations of the bible that recount either one or two angels present at Jesus’ resurrection. For me, the logic is that Michael moved the bolder (probably smashed the shit out of it knowing him) and Raphael went into the tomb to heal and resurrect Jesus.

One very interesting thing that I have also read is that in the bible, angels have to be called and summoned. They are not omnipresent:-

“I have come because of your words.” Daniel 10:12-14

This draws the concept of us needing to request and ask the angels for help. Something that humble humans will struggle with initially which is why they show us their signs. They will re-assure us they are there but they will not act unless we give direction. This can be spoken or through our thoughts, prayers and meditations.

Crystals

I am a great believer in crystal power. To me it is the earth, the grounding and the real magic as I feel energy surging through them in such different ways.

Here are some crystals that I recommend for angelic connections: -



Danburite – This is a powerful crystal to help align the chakras. It helps with self acceptance and to propel you further on your spiritual journey.

Celestite – This is a very calming crystal that has a high vibration and helps you connect with the angels.

Selenite – This is the perfect crystal for light workers. Light workers connect with the angels more easily than others.

Aura quartzes - Aura quartzes help to release negative

energy and allow you to accept that which you deserve. My favourite is aqua aura.

Aventurine – These come in many colours. I mainly work with Green Aventurine. The name itself sounds like adventure so I use it when I am ready for the next step in my personal adventures.

Blue Kyanite – This is the stone that most closely relates to Archangel Michael. It cuts through fears, helps with communication and truth and expands the aura.

Mini Angel Meditation

This just takes ten minutes.

Find somewhere to sit and get comfortable. If you have crystals, you can put one in each palm. If you want to meditate with crystals but don't have any, you can still visualise them and may even feel the weight of them in your palms.

You can also put on some relaxing music or a meditation ap in the background.

Close your eyes and take some slow deep breaths.

Once you feel your body relaxing, start to visualise a warm golden light filling you up inside.

Keep breathing and feel that the breath is also drawing golden light into you.

Start to focus on your back. Imagine wings there. Big, sumptuous wings that encompass your whole back but feel as light as air.

Stay a while in this position until you feel ready to 'come back down to Earth'.

When you are ready, start wiggling your fingers, your toes and take a yawn.

Breathe in and stretch your arms up above your head and as you breathe out, imagine that you are wrapping yourself in a golden bubble.

Do this twice more then open your eyes and start to become familiar again with your surroundings.

Take a drink of water and maybe have something to eat to help you feel grounded.

If you feel light headed, imagine that you are putting roots into the Earth from the bottoms of your feet.

You may have had one clear colour come through to you during this meditation – see if that fits with an Archangel description and you could well have connected to your guardian angel.

I'M A WITCH BUT I'M NOT WICCAN. BY SOPHIE FLETCHER

JUDGEMENT IS ONE OF THE ONE THINGS I'VE FACED A LOT SINCE I CAME OUT OF THE BROOM CLOSET. I ACTUALLY WAS HAPPIER TO ADMIT THAT I'M BISEXUAL THAN I WAS TELLING SOMEONE THAT I'M PAGAN AT THE BEGINNING OF MY JOURNEY. WHY IS THAT?

WHEN I TELL PEOPLE I'M A PAGAN WITCH, PEOPLE ASSUME I'M JOKING, OR I MEAN LIKE IN HARRY POTTER OR CHARMED, WHEN IN REALITY IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT (THAT WOULD BE COOL THOUGH – RIGHT?). PEOPLE HAVE A PREJUDGMENT AND IT'S SOMETHING I USED TO STRUGGLE WITH. NOW? I SEE IT AS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT IT.

I must admit, I am an awful Witch, I forget when the full moon is, I can't recognize my own crystals, I'm constantly looking up tarot card meanings because I've forgotten, it doesn't make me any less of a witch though – not really. The thing I fell in love with when I found paganism is the openness of it, it was a belief system without limits, no two pagans are the same, that's accepted, it's okay. Like in all beliefs, there are a few extremes but most of the witches I've met have been beautiful souls and there is no judgment. The community spirit is strong.

People's perception of Pagans is all wrong, in fact, I was the same before I found my own path, I genuinely thought sex with goats in the forest was a normal ritual (it's not...(most of the time). I was wrong about so many things, but the more I researched and learnt, the more hooked I was.

Is it the medias fault? Maybe – it certainly doesn't help our image. Most of it stems from being uneducated, from false idealism. Sadly people don't realize how paganism can lead to a better happier life.

Since finding my path, and becoming more spiritually aware I've been so much happier, my mental health has improved, I'm more focused and I'm living cleaner, and healthier. Is it the key to total happiness? Well no, but it definitely opens doors to finding yourself.

So I created "Witchgasm" it's an online blog all about mental health, all things witchy and my experiences in life as; a spiritually inspired, gothic hippy, who casts spells and cries in the forest.

I want to educate, inspire, and mostly help make fellow witches, pagans and beyond know; they're not alone, they're not crazy and yes that spell jar you cried over WILL work. We have to come together.



So don't be ashamed of being a pagan, a witch or whatever you decide to be. People will make the judgement and have opinions, but let's be face it, people have opinions on anything you do. So do what you enjoy. Talk. Talk, and talk some more, till they're bored or ask you for a spell book copy.

Education is power. You are amazing and unique, and the most powerful version of you.

You've got this, unapologetically you,

Always be, blessed be.

You can find more of my ramblings on Instagram @witchgasms

Or on www.witchgasm.com



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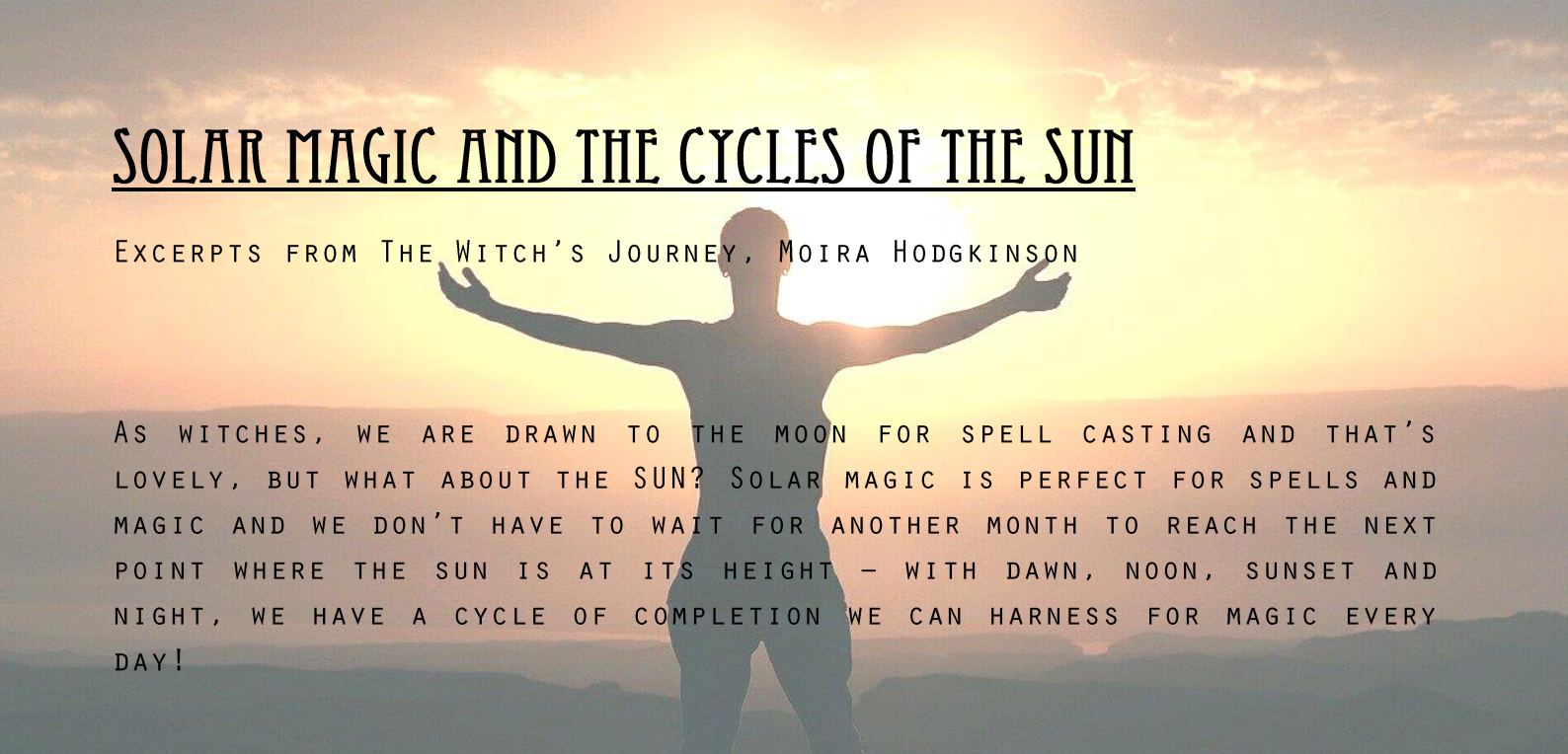
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SOLAR MAGIC AND THE CYCLES OF THE SUN

EXCERPTS FROM THE WITCH'S JOURNEY, MOIRA HODGKINSON



AS WITCHES, WE ARE DRAWN TO THE MOON FOR SPELL CASTING AND THAT'S LOVELY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SUN? SOLAR MAGIC IS PERFECT FOR SPELLS AND MAGIC AND WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER MONTH TO REACH THE NEXT POINT WHERE THE SUN IS AT ITS HEIGHT – WITH DAWN, NOON, SUNSET AND NIGHT, WE HAVE A CYCLE OF COMPLETION WE CAN HARNESS FOR MAGIC EVERY DAY!

There is a vast amount of mythology and folklore about the moon all across the globe. Normally associated with masculine deities, the sun also has a few feminine deities, including the Norse goddess Sol or Sunna, described as a sister to the moon. Sunna has a great sun-chariot that she rides in as she is chased across the sky by wolves.

Bright sunshine on your wedding day foretells a long and happy marriage and if your children are born at sun rise it will make them happy and wise while misfortune and dull-wittedness is saved for those born at sun set. Sunday, associated with the sun astrologically, is a propitious day to born on but is an unlucky day to change bed sheets, have your hair or nails cut or to sing a false note in church. Sunday is also a bad day to sign legal paperwork or to swear an oath.

If the sun falls in such a way that your shadow appears without its head on the winter solstice, it is said that great misfortune or death will come your way inside a year. It's not only our own sun but other stars that have folklore attached to them as seen in this little rhyme that is still in use: *Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight!* It has to be first star that you see and you must then wait until you see a second star otherwise you will not get your wish.

Magical Associations

Before embarking on any solar magic, it's worth knowing which solar phase is best for what type of magic. Much as we use the waning and waxing or full moon for different magics, the sun also has two distinct phases; the waxing period runs from mid-winter solstice to mid-summer solstice and the waning phase from mid-summer to mid-winter. The waxing half of the year, ruled by the Oak King, is a period of birth or re-birth, youth and growth, a period of learning, playfulness and fertility, new beginnings. The waning half of the year is ruled by the Holly King and is a time of winding down, making use of wisdom and knowledge, maturation, reaping and harvesting and finally winding down to old age and death, it's the phase of letting go.

Try this ... to start off with, here's a little saying that incorporates magic for the increase of wealth. Hold up a piece of gold at midday on the summer solstice and show it to the sun (mind your eyes), turn it in your hands so that it catches the sun and say this little chant three times.

“Money Lords of the strongest sun, double my fortune and double my luck, Money Lords of the strongest sun, bring more money to me, to me, bring good fortune to me, to me!”

Sunshine Protection

Here's a protective charm empowered by the sun. Carry this out at noon on a Sunday and if it's actually a sunny day, so much the better. Find a small gold coin or a piece of amber or similar sun-coloured token that you can use. Find some orange or red material and make it into small pouch. Have orange or bright yellow candles on the altar along with a pinch of saffron or a small piece of root ginger, a small pentagram, a ring and a few leaves or petals of spiky, thorny flowers such as a thistle or rose.



Prepare your sacred space in the sunshine and sit and meditate for a while, letting the goodness of the sun soak into your bones and onto the altar. Feel yourself free of worries, completely safe and entirely comfortable as you bask in the sun. Feel that golden light all over you, creating a bubble around you, inside of which all is positive and healthy. Now turn to the altar and consecrate the items, including the pouch.

Give a little prayer to the sun, something like this: ***Sun god of the waxing year, I offer you this simple prayer, bestow upon me your protection and keep me safe from harm. Let your power be held within this charm, as I do will, so mote it be.***

Light the candles and put the pentagram, petals from your thorny flower, a fiery spice, the ring and gold coin or amber into the pouch and close the bag tightly. Hold it up to the sun and as you do, feel that protective golden light radiating down again, all around you.

Great shining god of the waxing sun, I call on your power, give me protection in this charm each and every hour. Ancients, Old Ones, hear my call, let this spell work for the good of all.

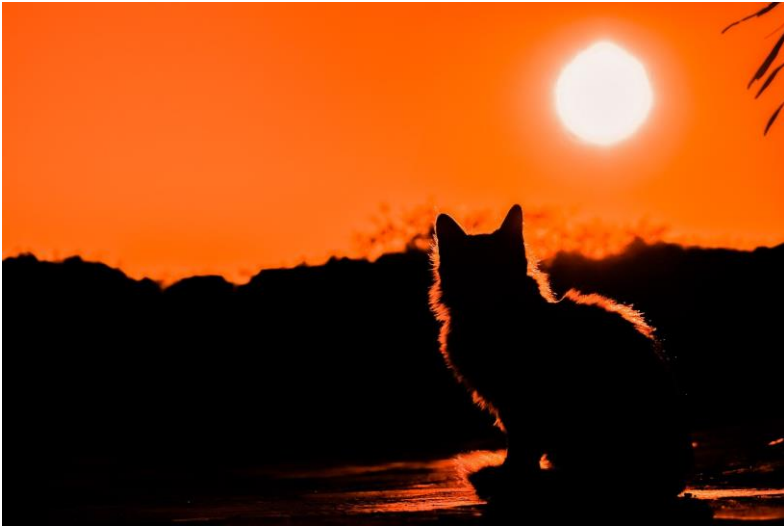
Bask in it and visualise it clearly – all that protective energy now conferred to the charm bag in your hand. Leave it on your altar in strong sunlight as long as possible and thereafter keep it in your car

for safe travel, hang it up in your home as a protection from unwanted visitors or keep it with you as you go about your regular day.

Solar Spell for Happiness

During the first half of the year when it's found all over the countryside growing wild, gather a small bunch of heather at noon on a sunny day. Heather has been considered a lucky plant for generations, sold by gypsies in small bunches wrapped in foil and often given to brides on their wedding day for a happy marriage. Heather is Ur of the Ogham alphabet which again is a happy and fortunate sign of good luck, health, general happiness and a good omen all round. Now that you have your heather, put it in on your altar with red, orange or gold candles and for the best results, carry out this spell in the morning when the sun is rising, the phase of increase and prosperity. You could combine this with the influence of a new moon phase if you wanted to but as this is solar magic, make sure you still

carry out this spell in the morning once sun has started to rise.



Place lots of solar symbols on your altar, a red cloth, gold coins or jewellery, something gold or orange that you can bury (even if it's a scrap of ribbon or paper) and of course, your sprig of lucky heather and an orange candle. You will also need a piece of wood or a small stone onto which you can

draw the symbol of Ur, a long straight line with three smaller lines crossing it horizontally near the top. You could even just paint or draw the symbol onto a thick piece of card. For preference, you should do this spell outside in the light of the rising sun.

Cast a circle with invocations to the elements, welcoming in the goddess and god. Bless and consecrate the heather, candle, stone/card and the offering object at your altar and then light the candle as an offering to the sun.

As the sun starts to rise in the east, I light this candle as a beacon for prosperity and growth, for increase and good luck.

Pick up the heather sprig and hold it up the sun.

I charge this heather with the light of the sun, to bring me good luck and happiness. Place it on your altar next to the candle and then draw the Ur symbol on your stone/card.

I bless this token with the element of air, fire, water, earth and spirit and I name it Ur, a symbol of good luck and happiness. Let this token be filled with the light of the sun.

Hold it to the sun and set it next to the heather and the orange candle and pick up your offering. Show it to the sun.

Rising sunlight, I give this (object) of mine to you in exchange for what I ask: joy, happiness, good luck and prosperity. Let all good things come into my life.

If possible, bury the object now, if not then keep in on the altar until you can do so.

As the sunlight grows, so shall my health, my wealth and my happiness increase. Power of the sun god, I ask of you, lend your powers to seal this spell. Let this work for the good of all, I as I do will, so mote it be!

Give thanks, close your circle and keep the Ur symbol in your wallet, purse or hand-bag and hang the lucky heather up in your house where you will see it every day and preferably in a south-facing window where sunlight can shine on it. Let the candle burn all the way down or if you cannot then light it again first thing in the morning, focusing as you do on thoughts of increase, good fortune and general happiness.

From Stonehenge to the pyramids in Egypt and Mexico, huge structures have been erected all over the world that line up with careful precision to the first rays of light on the winter and summer solstice.

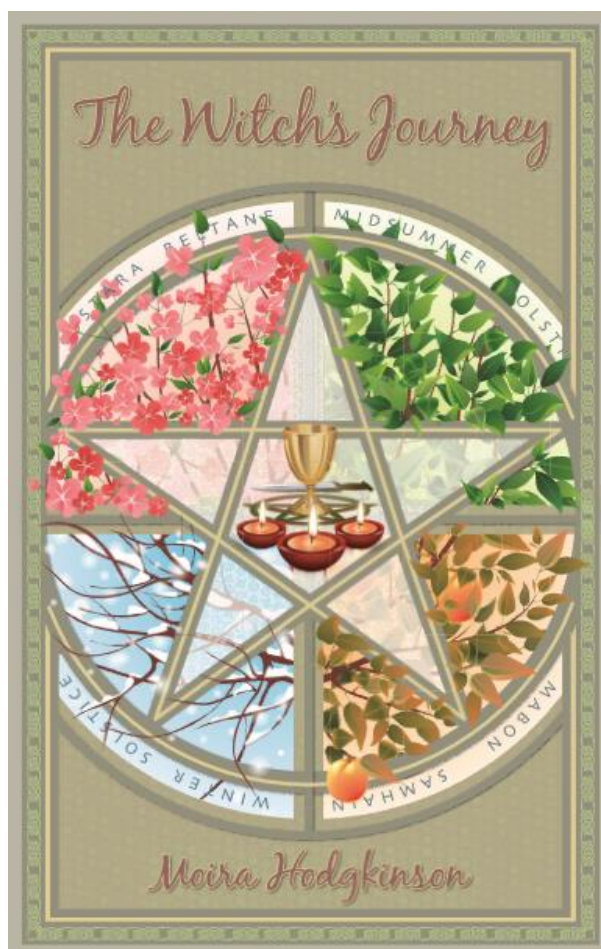
As we enter now the dark half of the year, we prepare for the festivals of thanks-giving and gratitude to the sun with Lughnasadh and Mabon, when we bake bread and weave golden sheaves of wheat into corn dollies. At the midwinter solstice, we will celebrate the return of the sun's light and start planning and scheming for the summer ahead. Whatever your magical goals may be, there's a solar phase to suit every spell!

ABOUT MOIRA HODGKINSON

A practicing witch and author, Moira began casting spells and writing stories as a child and hasn't stopped doing either of them since. Her books include practical, intuitive guides to witchcraft and paganism and pagan-oriented novels but her real love is horror. Moira writes for pagan magazines including *Witchcraft & Wicca*, has consulted for BBC Radio on witchcraft and gives talks and workshops at events across the country including *Witchfest International*.

She lives in the heart of Sherwood Forest with her family and too many cats. When not busy writing, Moira can be found walking in the forest talking to trees, curled up reading a book or knitting socks while watching horror movies.

The Witch's Journey is available [here](#) or you can visit www.moirahodgkinson.com





BOOK REVIEW

BY DANIEL B GRIFFITH

ENCOUNTERING THE DARK GODDESS - A JOURNEY INTO THE
SHADOW REALMS BY FRANCES BILLINGHURST PUBLISHED BY
MOON BOOKS

It is rare that I write a book review. By the time I get around to the actual writing, the book has often been in print quite some time. My thoughts are therefore, of little value to the publisher; even if my fellow bibliophiles would and do appreciate my opinion. On occasion I am asked to write a review by a publisher or by a magazine editor. I often decline these invitations and the accompanying offer of a free book. I do this because for reasons that puzzle me, I am frequently asked to reviews works that are not of interest to me and would not under normal circumstances consider reading. I am of the opinion that under these circumstances, others could write a more appropriate and appreciative review. This does mean that I have refused the offer of a work that I could potentially have sold later for profit but honesty prevents me from accepting these offers. Encountering the Dark Goddess by Frances Billingham is therefore, something of an exception. This is a work on a subject that is of interest and is indeed a book I would read.

This work is a very personal creation for Billingham, well written and ably illustrated (by Soror Basilisk), the author takes us through a journey, an encounter. Thirteen Goddesses are chosen somewhat idiosyncratically perhaps, for this journey. Each chapter is representative of the deep personal relationship that the author has with these Goddesses. Although historically whether all were recognised as Goddesses is open to debate, undoubtedly each one is an otherworldly being of importance.

The journey is an expression of the work the author has carried out for many years, writing, studying and running Goddess focused workshops. There is experience in every sentence and importantly respect. To quote the author: 'the Gods are real, very real' As a polytheist, I agree that each Goddess should be approached with deference and this respect is a key feature of the author's work.

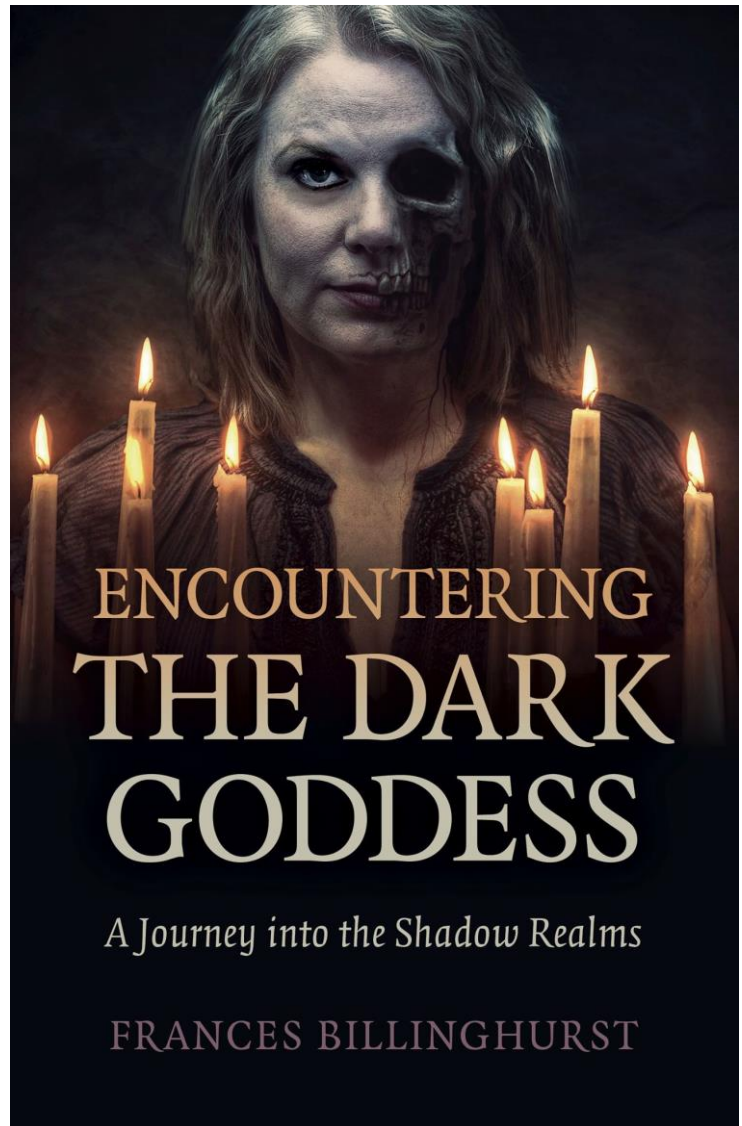
The sections of the work consist of a general introduction to working with and approaching the Darker aspects of divinity. This is followed by the major chapters on each relevant Goddess, complete with history, meaning, advice and correspondences. These sections are well researched and informative. The final part of the work is of a generalised practical nature which includes purifications, spells and further craftwork.

This third section also includes a deeply personal testimony by the author herself, discussing her recent illness and the changes that it has brought about. Unforeseen and at times, unwanted even if necessary. These changes are

discussed with sensitivity and surprising honesty. If it was not already obvious then this chapter alone would emphasise the personal nature of the work. The intricate and complex nature of the relationship that the author has with Divinity itself is a moving read and this chapter serves to tie the work together into a cohesive whole. This work offers the reader an insight into a series of personal encounters, informative, respectful and practical.

The book is expected to go on general release in March 2021 (I was graciously provided with a proof copy) and will be available from John Hunt Publishing:

<https://www.johnhuntpublishing.com/moon-books/our-books/encountering-dark-goddess-journey-shadow-realms?fbclid=IwAR3ME149ydR1gQuF2d4DWLdmbNuWU5wIEV93G-BHcHEGHquw UaUI2Qxdw>



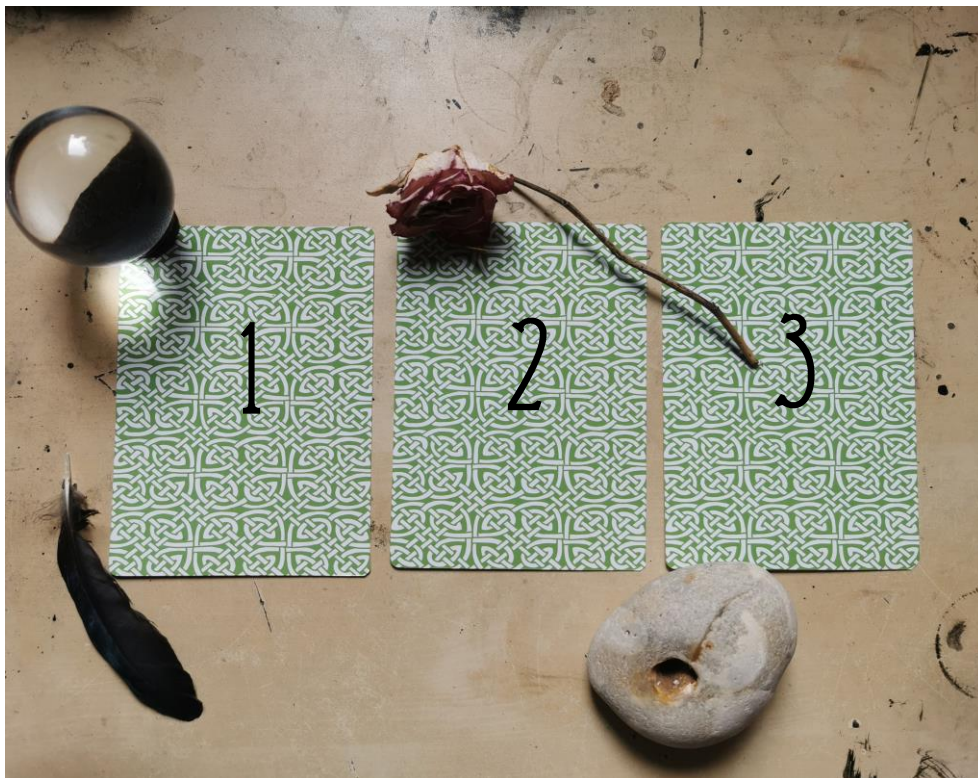
TAROT SPREAD FOR THE LUNAR ECLIPSE IN CAPRICORN

BY BEKKI JO MILNER

TAROT TALK IS TAKING A BREAK FOR THIS ISSUE. INSTEAD, PLEASE ENJOY THIS SIMPLE SPREAD FOR THE LUNAR ECLIPSE.

This month is a powerful full moon in Capricorn, along with a Lunar Eclipse, the last of a series of eclipses over the last two years. Here is a simple three card spread for the eclipse power and gifts associated with it.

Find out what you should let go of, what you should hold on to, and what you should welcome in.



1. WHAT SHOULD I LET GO OF DURING THE LUNAR ECLIPSE
2. WHAT SHOULD I HOLD ON TO DURING THE LUNAR ECLIPSE
3. WHAT SHOULD I WELCOME IN DURING THE LUNAR ECLIPSE

Five Minute Fiction &
Poetry

Grab a cup of tea and pull up
a chair.



CRIMSON

MAGDA KANIA

I tasted your blood
bonding our fates into one
making our hearts beat
in the rhythm of the same destiny

an enigmatic chant
sang quietly to the moon
summoned the gods
to be our witnesses

the wind caressed our pale bodies
the forest gave its blessing
with the soft whispers
and the dance of the leaves

you tasted my blood
crimson line staining your lips
the shimmering of fire tongues
brought to life in your eyes

in the full moon's light
a new path emerging
from the shapes of the ribbon
intertwined between our hands

the sacred union
kissed by the tip of a dagger
carried the unspoken promises
with the warmth breeze of a summer night

TINDER FOR WITCHES

SARAH LOVEROCK

I can't imagine loving someone
Who doesn't believe in magic.
I can't imagine myself as an adult.
I can't picture myself living
Alone beyond twenty-five,
That's the stupid time-stamp
I put on finding the One.
We'll brush shoulders at market
Fairs, kiss in museums, hold hands
By rivers, have sex with
Incense and sage dancing
In that air. Gods, I want a love
That feels like a spell. That
Hits as hard as the Tower card.
I want to bathe in gold, baby,
Adorn me with amethyst and
Rose quartz, make me your
Queen of Cups. I've got so
Many years to make up for
All those teenage butterflies
I missed out on become
Momma's ravens, her cats,
Her witch's familiars. I want
A love that feels familiar.
So kiss me and call me yours
I'm right here, waiting,
Holding out hope
The universe will pull you
Out my back pocket.

GULLVEIG

LAURA ALDOMA

Witches' wreath,
sunny flower,
in your eye
death.

Atropine Queen,
three golds in your cauldron simmer;
malt and honey,
and henbane,
for your love to linger.

Precious gruit ale
thrice you brewed it,
mystic oracle
when you drink it.

But when from your cauldron
the High One drank,
he didn't prophesize,
he waged war.

After a drink of your ale
he thrust his spear
for your body to penetrate.

Chaotic mother,
from your cauldron
all berserks were born,
enraged, delirious,
strong and torn.

Three times burnt,
three times reborn,
you conquered Death,
with the scent of your burnt flesh
you can wake the dead.

Refined Gold,
all-knowing,
wise and bold,
you left for the moorlands,
walking the heaths,
sowing witchcraft seeds.
Wandering witch mother,
we now follow
on your footprints.

Grimoire

July 2020

LUNAR ECLIPSE OIL

Harness the energy of the Full Moon Lunar Eclipse in this simple oil to use in ritual, anointing the body of candles for lunar magick, or even just as a fragrance oil.

Ingredients: 30ml Base oil – coconut or jojoba work well but you can use what you prefer

6 drops jasmine oil

6 drops ylang ylang oil

8 drops rose oil

Optional: chips of moonstone and onyx

On the night of the full moon eclipse, blend your oils together in a glass bottle - if you like to use coloured glass, blue or red would be ideal for this.

Leave upon your windowsill (alongside your moon water!) to charge and collect the power of the full moon eclipse.



Do you have a favourite spell or ritual you would like to share? Email them to witchzine.submissions@gmail.com and we will feature them in future issues!



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