

A Dance for Two Full Moons

A full Moon will take place at the time of the autumn equinox (Alban Elfed) and another will occur at the winter solstice (Alban Arthan). To add to the excitement, the Moon at the winter solstice is a total lunar eclipse! For those who live in the southern hemisphere, the full Moons will take place at the moment of the spring equinox (Alban Eiler) and the summer solstice (Alban Hefin). This makes for exciting ritual possibilities and astrological delight.

During a full Moon, the Sun and Moon are opposite one another, which allows us to see the Moon in her complete glory as she rises at sundown. When this coincides with highpoints of the Sun's journey, there is sure to be extra energy and opportunity for a connection between earth and sky.

Both full Moons feature a triangular aspect between the Sun and the Moon opposition with a powerful 90° connection from other planets. This is called a square, and heightens the excitement of the moment.

During the Alban Elfed Moon rise we will be able to see Jupiter quite close to the full Moon, a beautiful sight on a clear night. The Sun is in close company with Saturn in Libra, not visible because of his proximity to the Sun's rays. Even though we can't see Saturn, he provides the element of balance, a theme of the equinox season, when dark and light are in equal amounts. The Moon is in the high energy sign of Aries and keeps company with Uranus and Jupiter who urge us to new and expanded visions of what we may be as individual people and as a species. Here we are at a significant time of year with a celestial invitation to imagine in new forms and patterns.

Saturn opposite asks, 'how will the dream be structured?' Saturn in Libra provides stability to the visions of a fiery Aries Moon and the revolutionary drive of Uranus and Jupiter. While Uranus and Jupiter pull us toward swiftness and impulsive action in new directions, they are in the sign of Pisces, and flavor the dream with characteristics of the sign, compassion and inclusiveness. Saturn may hold us back to have a second look, or provide the frustration and resistance to the Pisces' dreaminess needed for birth.

Meanwhile the third point of the triangle is Pluto, lord of the Underworld, he who demands that all things change and that the truth will out. Pluto is in the company of the Lunar North Node. Pluto so close to the North Node is a transformational partnership and reminder that the Lunar eclipse, which will take place at the time of Alban Arthan may up the ante on demands for evolution and change. The 90° pattern between Sun, Moon and Pluto are quite tight and, Pluto and the North Node are 'ruled' by Saturn. The dreams we dance under this full Moon must be combined with respect for Saturn's rules of persistence.

Mars and Venus are conjunct in Scorpio. They are a repeat of the Sun in Libra (Venus) and the Moon in Aries (Mars) full Moon opposition. This suggests a lot of intertwined sexual energy. It may be expressed as just that--sexual energy; we may also experience a sense of integration as polarized energy looks for a creative outlet. The image of the Rider Waite Tarot card of the Eight of Cups, with its mysterious Sun Moon conjunction, will give you the picture.

The Moon rise on September 23rd will take place with much of this pattern still in place. This will be after the exact moment of the Full Moon, but the sight of the Aries Full Moon and the Pisces Jupiter should be quite dramatic if it's a clear evening sky. For those of us fortunate enough to be in ritual circle at this time, we can dance under a bright and energetic Harvest Moon, ready to share a vision of imagination with the patience and power to make it manifest. The Moon will rise at 6:25 pm. The exact moment of the Full Moon will be September 23, 2010 at 10:17 am GMD (5:17 EDT). The exact moment for entry of the Sun into Libra, the Fall Equinox will be September 23, 4:09 am GMD (September 22, 11:09 EDT). Add or subtract the hours for your time zone and look at the chart below to see how it meshes with your birth chart.

'We can make our minds so like still water that beings gather about us that they may see, it may be, their own images, and so live for a moment with a clearer, perhaps even with a fiercer life because of our quiet.' W.B. Yeats.

At this Solstice full Moon the Sun will be in the company of Mercury (communication), the North Node of the Moon, (marker of the eclipse point and evolutionary impulse) and Pluto who has risen from the Underworld to join the fourth solar companion, Mars-the warrior. The Sun is in the last degree of Sagittarius and the Moon is in the final degree of Gemini. This full Moon/Lunar Eclipse, which occurs so close to the moment of the solstice has the quality of a held breath. The sky is in a place of deep silence and awe, as Moon clears the way for the Sun's transition. The word Solstice means the Sun's standstill. Winter will begin as the Sun returns to the Northern Hemisphere, and the Sun will reach his highest moment in the Southern Hemisphere. This year the Solstice comes at a point of great celestial fanfare.

It looks as if the Moon, poised in the last degree of Gemini and about to enter the constellation Cancer, where it is at home must say goodbye to the past (South Node). The Sun has a last Sagittarian party with a boatload of stellar companions ready to sail into the change of season and the more sober sign of Capricorn.

Sun and Moon oppose each other, as they must, at the time of the full Moon. This time it is that restless pair, Jupiter and Uranus, still quite close together who make a 90° angle to the Sun and Moon. Mercury, the North Node, Pluto and Mars stand by the Sun at this moment of stillness. Jupiter and Uranus create the third point of the triangle. This will create the tension and excitement of another square, similar to the square at the Equinox. In both charts we see a pattern like a bow pulled back ready to shoot an arrow of focused intention across the chart. At the time of the equinox, it was the South Node, which was the target, a symbol of the past. At the solstice full Moon, the arrow of Jupiter and Uranus is aimed at the asteroid Juno, who represents marriage and the place of women in society.

The visions we shared at the full Moon of Alban Elfed are supplied the optimism and oomph they need to manifest by the expansive and revolutionary Jupiter and Uranus. They were in retrograde (appear to move backward) at the time of Alban Elfed, now they are direct, ready to take us toward a new place. Neptune the Dreamer and Chiron the Healer are there to further push the birth of this new season with a sextile to the Sun and a trine to the Moon.

The Moon will rise at 4:45 on December 21st.

The total Lunar Eclipse of the Full Moon of December 21 will take place shortly *before* the Winter Solstice which occurs at 11:39 pm GMT (6:39pm EST). The eclipse will begin at 5:27 am GMT. It will be visible from Northern Europe just before sunrise, and will become visible after midnight on December 21 in North and South America, then be seen across the Pacific Ocean. The end of the eclipse will be visible rising at sunset for Japan and Northeastern Asia. The moment of the Full Moon will be at 8:13 am GMT (3:13 am EST).

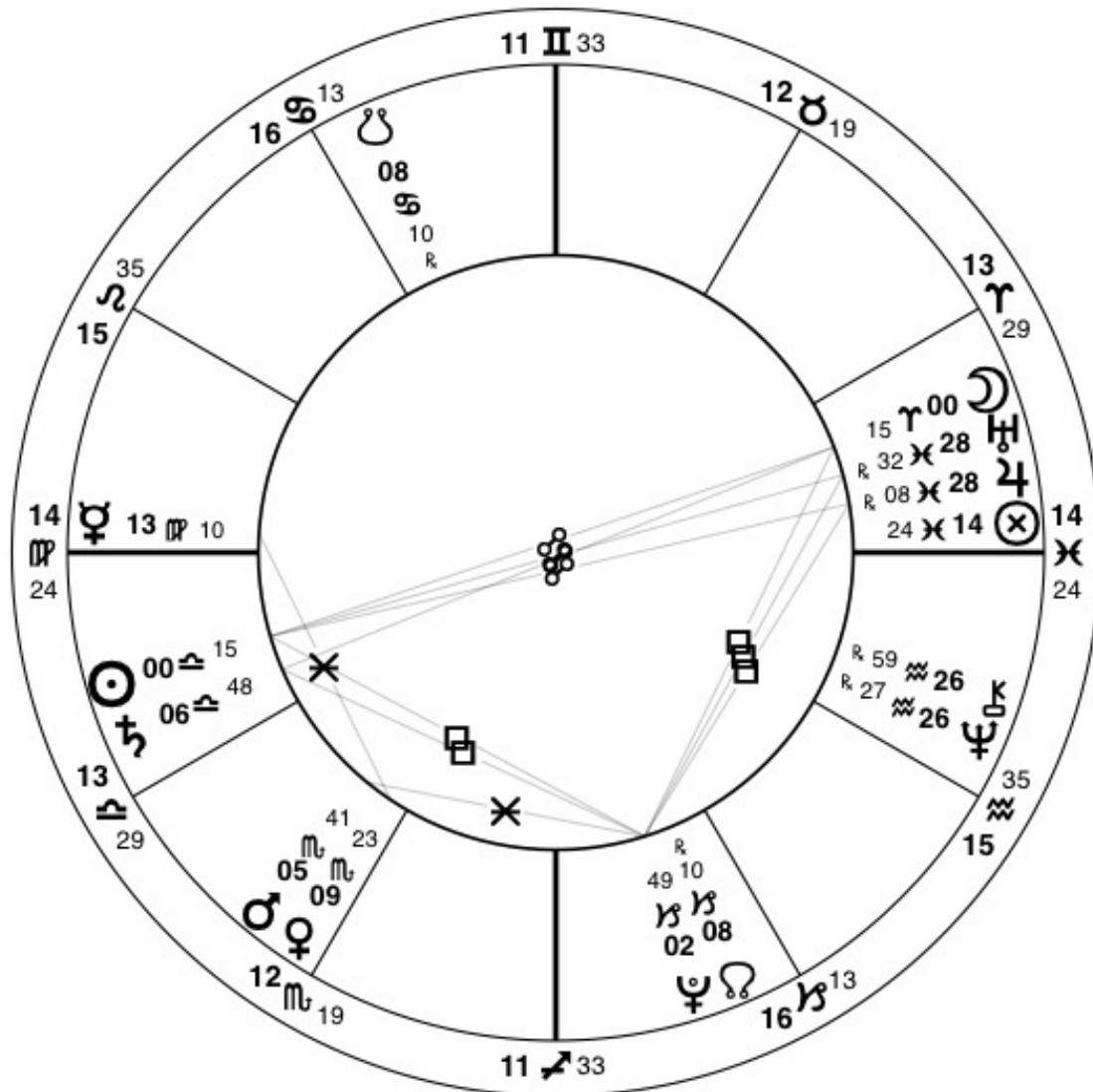
The charts for both the full Moons are below. The eight of cups from the Rider Waite deck is also in this attachment. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to see some of this in the night sky.

May the light of these powerful full Moons illuminate your celebration of the turning of the Wheel of the Year.

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Full Moon at fall equinox

Natal Chart
Thursday, September 23, 2010
5:17:00 AM EDT
Natick, Massachusetts
42N17 / 71W21
Tropical Koch True Node



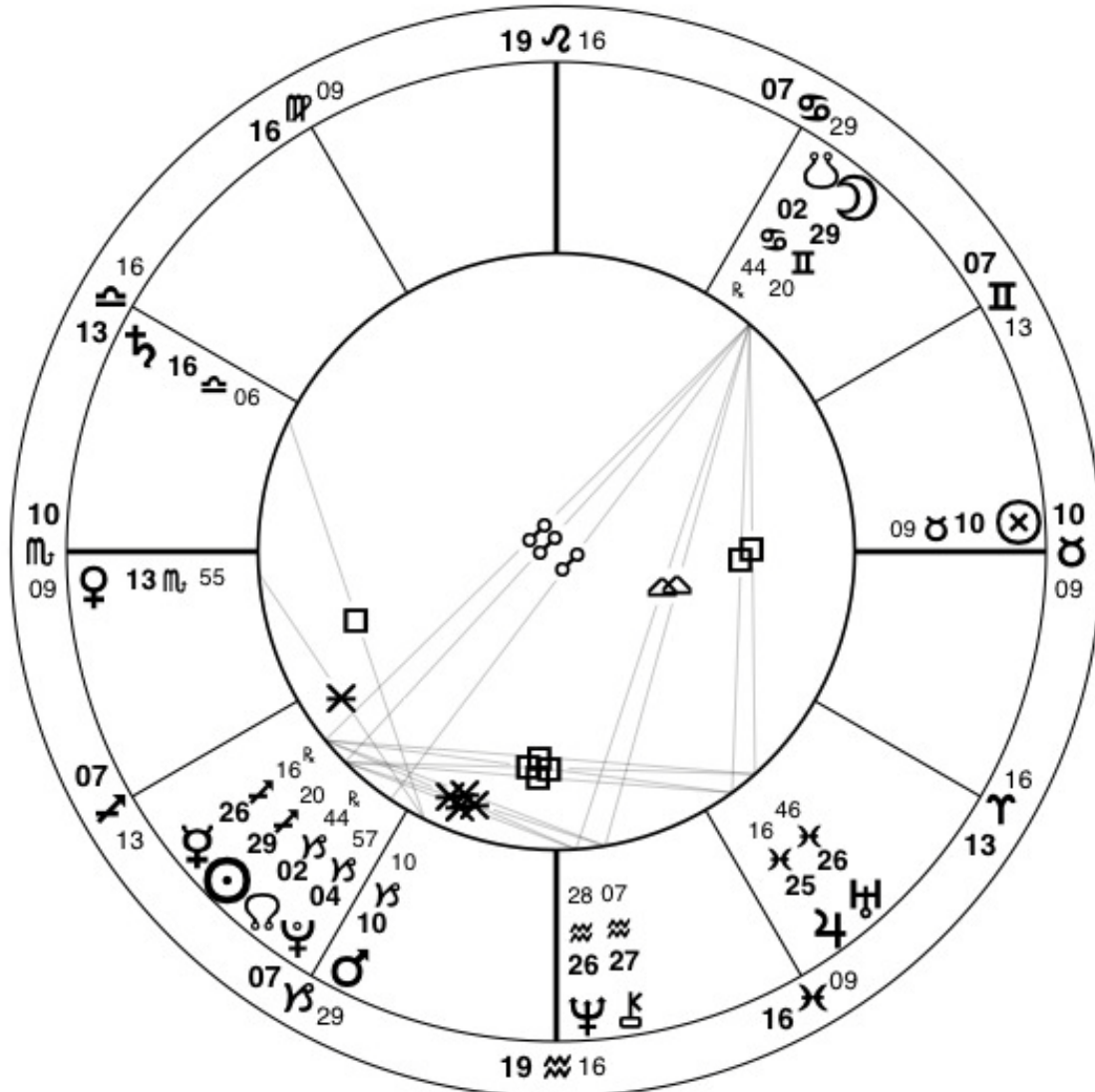
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VIII



Full Moon at winter solstice

Natal Chart
Tuesday, December 21, 2010
3:13:00 AM EST
Natick, Massachusetts
42N17 / 71W21
Tropical Koch True Node



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