



# Moonprints

by Dana Gerhardt

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**Frida Kahlo**

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***"I see the moon and the moon sees me,  
God bless the moon and God bless me!"***

My mother taught me good luck would come if I said this prayer whenever I saw the moon. It planted a deep seed of curiosity within me. For years I wondered... When we look at the moon, what do we really see? And what does the moon see when it looks at us?

**Moonprints** is the result of my wondering. It is a collection of insights from the astronomical moon—reflecting the sun—and the astrological moon—reflecting your intuitive, emotional self. I wanted this lunar report to be a unique “book” about the moon—with universal insights and observations that adjusts to the natal and dynamic moon positions for each reader. Thus it contains moon truths that are both universal and personal.

I hope after reading it you will feel closer to both the moon in the sky and the moon within you. Astrological factors you’ll find covered in this report are:

- Your birth moon phase and monthly moon phase birthday
- Your birth moon sign, aspects and house position
- The nodes of the moon in your chart
- How to work with the elements in your moon
- A year of new and full moons around your chart
- Your current progressed moon
- The 30-year progressed lunation cycles

## your inner moonscape

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### the natal moon

#### the balsamic moon

Three to four days before the New Moon, venture out before sunrise and you will find a waning crescent Moon on the eastern horizon. In the next day or so, the Moon will disappear altogether, as it moves progressively closer to the Sun, getting lost in the glare of its light. This is the Moon you were born under, the Dark Moon, or as it's also known, the Balsamic Moon. Each month at the start of this phase, you'll find the Moon rising around three in the morning and setting around three in the afternoon, appearing progressively later until it rises with the Sun at the New Moon. (To become more familiar with this lunar phase in the coming months, its dates are listed later in this report under "your lunation birthday.")



Coming into this world under a Balsamic Moon suggests this could be a very "karmic" lifetime for you. The last phase in the lunar cycle, the Balsamic phase is about completion; in this lifetime you may be bringing several prior lifetimes to their conclusion. You may find yourself with a number of relationships that start quickly and intensely, but don't last long. These individuals may be people you have unfinished business with – left over from past lives. Approach these sudden, powerfully-felt relationships with an attitude of honesty and spiritual generosity. Ask from a place deep inside yourself, "Is there anything I need to say or give to this person?" Try to be receptive if that individual is trying to reach closure with you. Though not always possible, the goal is to finish these karmic relationships cleanly, with each of you being able to look the other squarely in the eye, all debts and resentments cleared.

The Balsamic Moon appears in the waning half of the Moon's monthly cycle. This is a more inward and reflective period. Its focus is on the discovery of meaning. More than most, those born here need to make sure their actions are in tune with their personal philosophies. Whenever your life doesn't match your belief system, you may find that things don't run so smoothly. Yet you are bolstered by a highly

individualistic vibration. Because you were born in the waning hemi-cycle, you entered your first progressed New Moon period very young, which means very early you were separating from the prevailing culture around you. The New Moon time inspires one to view the world with fresh eyes, to move forward into some new direction – perhaps you were too young to do this very consciously, but your body recorded the energy nonetheless. It may be why you seemed to know your own mind before many of your friends knew theirs. (For dates and a discussion of the progressed New Moon, see the last section in this report.)

Because this is also the phase nearest the New Moon, the Balsamic period is also very future-oriented. And those Balsamic-born are often quite prophetic and visionary. Your soul has gained much experience and distilled much wisdom. You have strong instincts about what's worth carrying forward and what's not, yet you may not always know why you feel the way you do. This may have caused you to feel like an outcast sometimes, out of step with the world around you. But most likely, you've just been ahead of your time. There's a feeling of special destiny with Balsamic types. Early on, you might have felt you had something very important to do, without consciously knowing exactly what that was. Given the nighttime sky is dark during the Balsamic period, the symbolic suggestion is that there may likewise be times when you just can't see what's around the corner. That's when you need to rely on your inner light to guide you. You will work best, however, with some vision of the future drawing you forward. So if one goal doesn't work out, practice the art of letting go, and allow yourself to flow into a new one. Appeal to your higher spiritual forces for a vision; let the spirits work through you.

Of course one needs some courage to be this way. Developing a strong connection with your inner warrior may be important. During those times you feel lost or out of step, you might actually look to the planet of action and strength for inspiration. That planet is Mars. Some astrologers believe that working with the position of Mars in a Balsamic's chart, as well as the house with Scorpio on the cusp, can help to better ground the Balsamic into their Moon phase purpose. While such an investigation is beyond the scope of this report, if you have some knowledge of astrology, you might want to pursue this on your own. Mars' house position may point to activities that are particularly on-purpose for you; aspects to Mars may show challenge and/or support for expressing this mission.

### **a more lunar way of knowing**

Lunar phases draw from the cyclic relationship of the Sun and Moon; their astrological energy likewise draws from the symbolism of the Sun and Moon in your chart. So although there are certain qualities common to all those Balsamic-born, further characteristics emerge from your specific Sun/Moon combination.

Since this is a moon-based report, rather than give you a “cookbook” interpretation of this pairing, I'd like to invite you now to call in your own intuition – to make a more imaginatively accurate sense of the astrology.

Your Sun is in the sign of **Cancer**. The Sun brings awareness and life force, and energizes your awakened self. This is the daytime part of your being, the active, achievement-oriented you. You can read about this sun sign in any astrology book, but if you were to reach inward for your own experience of this energy, how would you describe it? Moon-mind often thinks in sounds, pictures or sensations. If your moon-mind were to visualize this energy as some real or imagined animal, what might that animal be? How would it look, how would it sound, how would it move? You might want to get out a sheet of paper and see what your moon-mind comes up with. Create a picture of yourself in daytime mode. What does this solar being want? Where does it like to spend its days?

Your Moon is in the sign of **Taurus**, ruling your nocturnal self, that part of you that weaves the emotional stories of your day into nighttime dreams. This is the sensitive and nurturing visionary within. If this lunar energy also took form, as some real or imagined creature, revealing the part of you that comes out at night, what would it be? How would it move? What would it eat? How would it sound? What does it want? Once you have these images clear, imagine, if you can, that these two animals merge into a uniquely wonderful creature, that blends the qualities of both your daytime and nighttime selves. Sink into this creature's skin. What does this being most want from the world? Why is it here? What does it have to offer? As you get more familiar with the Balsamic phase in the coming months, see whether you can add even more insights to this moon phase nature. Yours will be an insider's authentic knowledge.

### **taurus moon**

The Moon was in Taurus the day you were born, a strong, loyal, patient, and very sensual Moon. Some say your Moon Sign represents your Sun Sign in a past lifetime. Whether or not this is literally true, the Moon sign does seem to describe deep and instinctive emotional reactions, at work long before you had the words to articulate them. It's like an emotional "starter set," a developed soul memory that jump starts the emotional receptors when you touch earth again in a new body. Being a familiar energy, it's comfortable. It describes how you most wanted to be welcomed into the world. It is through this lunar filter that you first reached out to your mother for nurturing, and how you still want nurturing today.



Your **Taurus Moon** carries the grace of its ruling planet Venus. This Moon is fertile and creative, sensuous, attuned to the power of earth, knowing how to pace itself and sustain life.

When your Moon is off balance, you may feel stubborn or frightened of change, lazy or self-indulgent, obsessed with material possessions, dulled by routine. Restore your equanimity by appreciating your true worth. You need to know you are valued. You need to feel comfortable and secure. Your Moon likes long walks in nature, savors the experience of gardens and watching things grow. Reflect her beauty back to her, and like a divine artisan or heavenly singer, this inner goddess will weave endless beauty and joy into your days.

Your Taurus Moon has a strong attachment to the physical world. All the physical sensations are heightened for a Taurus Moon and as a child you especially needed lots of cuddling and hugs, and nice soft, warm things to be wrapped up in so you could feel safe and valued. Physical comfort is important for a Taurus Moon; it's what lets you know the world is a safe and supportive place. It lets you know that you're someone worth loving, whose presence here matters.

If your early environment was a calm and stable place, where your physical needs were consistently and affectionately met, then you likely developed a strong internal support system, giving you a grounded and steady approach to the emotional ups and downs of life, an inner strength which others might eventually lean on. Taurus Moons can become the emotional rocks of the zodiac. If, however, the messages you got from your early physical environment were not so positive, you might have an inner child with tremendous insecurity, who now reaches for safety in physical things, such as food, material possessions, or even people. The undeveloped Moon might still be looking for that warm blanket or that affectionate hug to let the child inside know that everything is okay.

Of course it's impossible to reduce the complexity of your insides to one or two simple needs. Your astrological chart, being made up of eight other planets positioned across twelve different houses, reflects this complexity--and an in-depth

reading of the whole chart will give more of the full picture. But for now it's important to understand that your Taurus Moon is an important side of your nature that needs to be honored. You'll know the needs of your Taurus Moon aren't being addressed particularly when you find yourself overindulging or obsessing in some part of your life.

Overindulgence in physical pleasures is a typically Taurus way to displace or cover up any negative feelings. If you find yourself eating too much, spending too much, or clinging too much to anything outside yourself, recognize this as a warning signal that there are some deep, and probably old, feelings to attend to. Financial worries may actually be masking an emotional insecurity that no amount of money can ease. The hunger may seem physical for your Taurus Moon, but it's actually soul food, not money or sex or sweets, that you need.

Taurus is an earth sign, and the earth offers a tremendously healing energy for you. Sit with Mother Nature. Her quiet strength will calm your fears. Her peace and beauty will wrap you in the most comforting blanket you could ever imagine--if you let yourself open up to this energy. Your own emotional strength will develop from experiencing and "understanding" the patient stillness of a rock or a tree. Keep green growing things around you, at work or in your home. Hold crystals and rocks. Listen to the earth. Your inner Taurus child will, on some level, understand.

When the needs of your Taurus Moon are being met, you can enjoy her considerable gifts. As you gradually let go of any old, unsatisfying habits that your inner child might have clung to for safety, you will discover a reservoir of internal strength that has actually been there all along. This is a warm, very loving and very giving Moon. Your true security will come from recognizing just what a gift you truly are! Often, artistic talents accompany a Taurus Moon; those with this sign are frequently wonderful singers and painters and craftspeople. You don't have to make a career of it to bring this wonderfully creative side of Taurus into your daily life. Actually, whatever career you choose to undertake, your Taurus Moon can really help you to patiently and persistently build towards your success.



## planets aspecting your moon

Your Moon's **waning semi-square** to the **Sun** draws in the qualities of the final phase of the Moon's cycle (known as the "dark" or "balsamic" Moon)--an intuitive, transformative energy. The semi-square suggests a conflict between your instinctive emotional nature and your emerging identity this lifetime. One's Moon nature is often built over lifetimes, while the Sun represents particular features to develop over this lifetime. Notice these two sides of yourself and how they operate as inner voices and advisors--can you identify which wants to pull you forward, and which wants to pull you back? Although this is an aspect of tension, it doesn't necessarily suggest difficulty--sometimes it is just this inner tension and friction that motivates one to grow out of old comfort zones and risk new behaviors. It may also be what prods you to question who you are and what you may be becoming. The path of inner reflection will be important to you--because there will likely be few outer models for this new integration. This is your creative project this lifetime--squaring what you think with what you feel!

Your Moon is also in a **waxing sesquiquadrate** aspect to **Mars**--which can energize your emotions, intensify your ambition and anger, and at times complicate the issue of lunar nurturing. An aspect of tension, the waxing sesquiquadrate wants you to break away from traditional understandings of aggression and nurture and integrate them in a new expression; insights may initially come through outward challenges, particularly in your relationships. These difficulties may actually hold opportunities to reconcile two different sides of your nature--one that is sensitive, needy and supportive, and the other, that like the Greek goddess Artemis, enjoys solitude, independence, and the hunt. Moon/Mars individuals may sometimes have difficulty expressing their warrior energy. A strong influence from your childhood may have taught you to repress your desires and drive for achievement, so that it comes out now in uneven, sometimes toxic ways. Learning to balance the soft and strong sides of your nature is part of your journey. You may also with this aspect attract females who are strong and combative; such relationships may ultimately help you work out your own lunar issues. (Note: Some consider the sesquiquadrate a minor aspect, one that's more subtle or internalized, but given that inner frictions often find their reflection in outer realities, this aspect can be just as dynamic as the more traditional oppositions and squares.)

Your natal Moon is also in a **waning semi-square** to **Neptune**, which increases the artistic, emotional, and psychic sensitivity of this placement. Positively this can bring you into higher vibrations of compassion and sensitivity. Negatively this can lead to fantasies and escapism. Vision and imagination can be strong with Neptune aspecting your Moon. Allowing yourself outlets for creative as well as spiritual expression may be important. Keeping strong psychic boundaries is also important with Neptune in aspect to your Moon--you may at times act



unconsciously as a "psychic and emotional vacuum cleaner." If you suddenly get feelings and don't know why, it may be that you've picked them up from someone else! Since the Moon rules the women in your life, you may also find that women you are close to will carry this Neptune vibration. Since this is a waning/transformational aspect, the psychic and intuitive elements of this aspect are particularly strong, but beware of falling into the watery "poor me" syndrome. This is a hold-over from the past that wants to be cleansed and healed. (Note: Some consider the semi-square a minor aspect, one that's more subtle or internalized, but given that inner frictions often find their reflection in outer realities, this aspect can be just as dynamic as the more traditional oppositions and squares.)

Your Moon's **waning square** to the **Ascendant** suggests there may be some conflict between your "outer" and "inner" selves. It may be that life keeps drawing you into public arenas, when your emotional nature would prefer hiding out at home, or that your emotions are continually drawn to the surface against your better wishes. There is sometimes an indecisiveness or difficulty in taking action with this placement; the nagging voices of old emotional patterns may conspire to hold you back. The Moon's influence on your persona may be such that early in life you instinctively learned how to be very nurturing and protective of others; the downside of this placement is that you may be more concerned about others' feelings than your own. This placement has a shadow side--while you are consciously sensitive to the needs of others, your shadow side takes revenge, and while you're unawares, expose to the world a side of yourself that's sometimes dependent and childish. Because this needy self can lurk in the shadows of your unconscious, you may be unaware of this image that others see in you. Since this aspect also squares the Descendant, significant partnerships can show you whether the Moon supports or undercuts your outer persona. Conscious awareness can go a long way towards smoothing out any bumps in the road.

Your Moon's **waning conjunction** to the **Midheaven**, suggests you may consistently experience a more "public" exposure of your inner emotional self. This can bring you into the public eye--through fame or infamy! It can also mean you project a compassionate and nurturing image in your professional role. Your intuitive gifts are likely to be strong, and may incline you towards service-oriented professions; careers associated with women, homes, food, may also be favored. On another level, the changeability associated with the Moon might bring inconsistency or depression in terms of your career. The Midheaven/Moon aspect carries a strong maternal imprint--suggesting that your mother may have had a greater than average impact on how you choose to deal with the outer world, or that she had a strong influence on your chosen profession. Early in life you may have been instinctively protective and nurturing of others; the downside of this placement is that you may more easily respond to others' needs before your own. Your sense of responsibility can overwhelm the normal personal needs of a Moon-

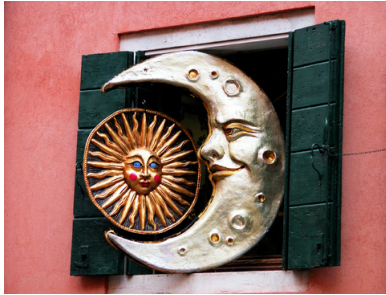
-so you need to keep checking in with this aspect to see that you're taking proper responsibility for your own emotional life.

## tenth house moon

The exact time and place you were born determines the location of the Moon in your chart, which adds yet another layer to this lunar side of you. Your Tenth House Moon carries a strong maternal imprint--suggesting that your mother may have had a greater than average impact on how you choose to deal with the outer world, or that she had a strong influence on your chosen profession. Sometimes a Tenth House Moon indicates a reversal of parental roles, either that your mother was more fatherly, or your father was more motherly, or that one of your parents took on both roles. Either way, the influence on your personality may be such that early in life you instinctively learned how to be very nurturing and protective of others; the downside of this placement is that you may feel more responsible for others' feelings than your own. You need to keep checking in with this Moon to see that your emotional needs are getting fed too--or the needy child within may try to provoke your attention with an unwanted public display.

Security and respect are probably important to you. Your sensitivity and receptivity to others are also likely to be strong, and may incline you towards more intuitive or service-oriented professions. Sometimes a Tenth House Moon can indicate fame, with this position of the Moon describing someone quite visible to the public. More negatively, it may bring unwanted attention, or inconsistency and depression in terms of your career. It's up to you to work this energy into its most profitable forms.

Each of the twelve houses in an astrology chart represents different aspects of life. But it's hard to conceive of an area of your life that does not involve the Moon. You take her emotional engagement, her self-protective and nurturing instincts, her receptivity and changeability into many areas of your life. So the Moon's residence in a particular house of the chart does not mean this is the only place she'll manifest--rather, it's where she's most comfortable, where she instinctively returns for nurture and renewal. It's her home. So when you feel lost or disconnected from your emotional nature, seek experiences in this house to awaken the connection again. A Tenth House Moon will especially need engagement in respected and socially valued activities. Develop an area of life where you can be an authority instead of a child. Your career or public persona (whether this literally coincides with your "job" or not) is an important area of nurture.



A good time to pay special attention to your Tenth House Moon is the month each year when the New Moon lights up this part of your chart (for dates, see “Your Monthly Lunar Focus” later in this report).

The Tenth House is your horoscope’s business card. It describes what you’re most known for—the kind of name it was your destiny to make for yourself this lifetime. Everyone has a gift the world needs. Everyone has a calling. Not all callings are performed on a public stage—maybe you’re a quiet domestic goddess or the best-shoulder-to-cry-on for your friends. Maybe you work as a typist by day and spend your evenings writing passionate poems that laugh and weep for the soul of the world. Or perhaps your innovative thinking launched a multi-billion dollar a year company. Whatever you’re known for, consider how the Moon has influenced your choices. The New Moon’s annual visit to this house may raise the issue of your right work. Are you doing what you came here to do? Are you offering your gifts to the world? The Moon’s qualities—nurture, intuition, sensitivity--may suggest key attributes of your calling. This house influences your public reputation and what you’re inclined to do to create it. Early authority figures may have influenced this expression. Experiences with current authority figures may also be significant to your Moon’s happiness.

### **compatibility: taurus with other moon signs**

People often consult astrologers when they meet someone new and find themselves falling in love. Is this one, they wonder, **The One**? Do the heavens favor this match? The Moon figures in this analysis, but the early planetary players of attraction are more often the Ascendant and Venus or Mars. A relationship’s sticking power may come from the positions of Saturn and the Moon’s Nodes. But eventually the Moon plays a significant role in compatibility. As your instinctive emotional skin, it describes how you reach for comfort on a daily basis. It says how you like to be nurtured. So Moon signs tell, much better than Sun signs, if you’re actually going to enjoy living with this person over time.

If you meet someone with a **Taurus** Moon, you’ll feel an immediate, nonverbal affinity, since both of you will be coming from the same emotional place. Whether or not this will make for a good relationship really depends on what you want. If you want someone comfy who responds to life just as you do, find a **Taurus** Moon, or another earth sign like **Virgo** or **Capricorn**. If you want to be challenged or taken beyond yourself, look for a **Scorpio**, **Aquarius** or a **Leo**. If you want a different perspective which, with a little work, can fit quite smoothly alongside your

own, look for a **Pisces** or a **Cancer** Moon. **Sagittarius** or **Libra** Moons might always feel a little uncomfortable.

Remember, however, though important, there's much more to anyone's chart than just the Moon. You and someone else might have quite compatible Moons, but have conflict everywhere else in your charts! Ultimately, no matter what else is going on in your chart, you've got more options in relationships when you can understand your own emotional needs and aren't waiting for the perfect person to come along and intuitively know how to fulfill them! Taking time each day to honor the needs of your Tenth House Taurus Moon will go a long way towards ensuring your happiness and emotional peace.

### relationships in the age of aquarius

*Remember the song from Hair, "This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius..."? It's true. We are entering a new age. After nearly two thousand years in the Age of Pisces, we're entering a new Aquarian Age. One of the things that will change in Aquarius is our way of thinking about relationships. Pisces was a very romantic, idealistic era, that sent us searching for an ideal partner, a soul mate with whom we might one day merge and become one. Pisces was about the knight in shining armor rescuing his princess, about an outer love that could make our inner life worthwhile. In the Pisces days, one could typically hand over his lunar needs for his partner to fulfill. This model rarely works anymore; it isn't meant to!*

*Aquarius asks us to take much greater responsibility for determining our own happiness. Instead of looking for someone to rescue us, to complete us, or to make us happy, Aquarius asks us to enter into equal partnerships--not from dependency, but out of interdependency. The image of Aquarian relationship is of two trees standing next to one another, their branches intertwined, even leaning against one another in places, but each has its own separate root system, its own internal supports. We're the pioneers for this new age. We'll be teaching later generations about this new kind of relationship and developing new romantic myths, shattering the old sexual stereotypes, and talking about loving with an open hand. It's exciting and liberating to be able to take care of your own emotional needs. This is called having a relationship with yourself! There's a lot of healing work ahead for the family of man; only strong, emotionally whole and responsible beings will achieve it.*

## the nodes of the moon

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### the soul's arrow

What are the "Nodes" of the Moon? To astronomers, they are imaginary points of intersection in space, where the Moon's path around the Earth crosses the Earth's path around the Sun. To ancient Hindu astrologers, the Nodes are demons: Rahu and Ketu, a beast which the god Vishnu severed after it drank the gods' forbidden elixir of immortality. Contemporary Western astrologers read the Moon's Nodes as clues to your psychological nature, with the North Node depicting an area of development (often of untapped potentials), and the South Node an area of stagnation. I like to call the Nodes "the soul's arrow"--for to me they give a powerful description of your soul's desired direction this lifetime. What did you most come here to do? That's what the Moon's Nodes will tell you!

Given these are the *Moon's* Nodes, they may draw you into some deeply emotional territories. Working with them often means facing some of your toughest issues. Your Nodes being in the signs of **Cancer** and **Capricorn** raise the emotional assignments of harmonizing your child-self with your adult-self; this means learning to value both of them. You have a special sensitivity to issues of dependency and taking charge, and may initially lean towards one or the other. You are here to balance both the feminine and patriarchal (or structuring) values. You are here to give and receive nurture – as well as take responsibility and claim your authority.

Your Nodes falling across the **Eleventh** and **Fifth** houses make the following important themes: celebrating your unique and creative self (what's special about you) as well as joining in a selfless global concern. Joys are passion and playfulness, creativity and leadership; skills are objectivity, progressive thinking, the ability to stand apart from others to help them along. But initially you might find that one or more of these qualities is out of balance (perhaps too detached or too full of pride); there's a fear or inhibition that needs to be worked through.

I like the "karmic" perspective on the Nodes, which suggests that the South Node describes past life karma, your psychic history, and the North Node your current life dream, what your soul most wants to develop this lifetime. They summarize what conditions you came from, and where you'd like to be heading. To my way of thinking, the soul isn't into repetition. If you were Shakespeare in a past lifetime, you're probably not meant to win Pulitzers for your plays this time around. The soul is attracted to the earth plane because the hard surfaces of earth reality are the ingredients for development--and what your soul is trying to develop is a new wholeness by way of balance. What you didn't get last time, you'll work on this

lifetime. At the North Node you are developing experience at something entirely new. And even though you might approach this experience with some trepidation, there's a kind of fairy dust associated with it. You're often blessed with success in that direction.

## cancer north node in the eleventh house

With a **Cancer North Node**, the inner world of emotional sensitivity is the treasure map this lifetime. Exploring the reality of this world will bring your soul its desired development. The more you honor and learn to nurture your own and others' emotional needs, the greater growth and ultimate wealth you will enjoy. Initially, however, this may not seem like an easy or natural path. There's often a kind of emotional self-neglect masquerading as hardiness with this Node. Self-preservation as a child may have meant denying your neediness; you may even discover a certain amount of pride inside over your ability to deny pain or go it alone. You may not want to deal with issues around family, but entering into your roots and working with the imagery of ancestral healing can open new spiritual doors. To take a quick inventory on how far you've developed this Node, ask yourself how easily (or how often and how creatively) you nurture yourself. Take a look at your home. Do you give it time and attention? Does it reflect your spirit? And how much of your daily time do you spend with your loved ones? Connections with female energy, ethnic traditions, or children may be also important keys to your unfoldment.

You're blessed with lots of creative energy, but the vibration of the **Eleventh House North Node** asks you not so much to seek personal attention or gain, but to commit to something higher than personal success this lifetime. This doesn't mean you have to hide your light. Paradoxically, your recognition will probably come once you stop looking for it. Group efforts and friendships may bring special teachings. But if romantic affairs, creative endeavors or parenting have been disappointments to you, it may be that you've burdened them with inappropriate expectations. Developing detachment will help you to better see your role in these situations--and what's appropriate to expect in return for your efforts. Whenever you can give without requirements on what comes back, you will discover a great joy, and will shine with a special radiance. Connect with your high principles and ideals, work with others towards a common goal. Use your gifts of vision and inventiveness to build a better world. The rest of us need people like you to lead us into bright futures.

***Your natal Jupiter is conjunct the North Node – the keynote is expansion! Take your instruction from the questing spirit within. Whether it's literal or philosophical adventures, you're meant to travel beyond the circumstances you were born into. This can be auspicious placement.***

These cues may trigger recognition of one or more dreams you've long wanted to achieve but have been afraid to commit your all to. How does it feel to do something entirely new? Something you have no experience with, have built up no confidence level in? It's a little uncomfortable, isn't it? Even if it's something you're excited about doing, there's a real temptation to run away. And so it is with the North Node, though it's something we're pointing towards, we may spend our lives wishing for it, but actively avoiding it, and thus staying the comfort zone of the South Node.

And that's the other side of the coin. How comfortable is the familiar? Even a bad experience is compelling if it's familiar. The trouble you know is often safer than the trouble you don't know, right? Which is why many people stay in bad relationships rather than risk the unknown of moving on. I bring up bad relationships because the South Node sometimes has the character of a bad relationship, something that limits our development, hinders us in some way. Even though the South Node represents talents we've mastered and achieved, it also carries fears and belief systems that hold us back. And part of the soul's intent is to clear their sticky hold.

### capricorn south node in the fifth house

The **Capricorn South Node** is the Node of the self-sufficient achiever. You have the gift for making things happen in the real world. Such an approach is certainly rewarded in this culture--but inwardly, you may find that no matter how hard you work or push yourself, the outer rewards may keep coming up empty. You're not afraid of taking on responsibilities, but you might get caught sometimes having taken on too much, winding up lonely and resentful of your burdens. You have to wonder why you feel so driven. From an early age, you may have been motivated by a strong need to be respected and appreciated as a hard-working individual. Perhaps outer circumstances meant your very survival, materially or emotionally, depended on pushing yourself. Who can prove it – but some say early life experiences merely repeat your past life ones – they become the perfect petrie dish for old habits to grow in. Was there a series of lives where you were obsessed with outer achievements? Eventually, like the old horse returning to its stable, was occupying the leadership chair all you knew how to do? Consider that you've been up there, done that, earned the gold watch and bronze plaque. Think now of going for other, perhaps more challenging achievements, inward ones, like mastering the sensitive contours of the human heart. How easy is it for you to feel vulnerable, or to be around others who are? Remember, humans are not success machines. Some of the greatest gifts can come in very innocent and fallible packages. If you slowed down, allowed yourself to make mistakes, learned more how to enjoy life; if you took better care of yourself and others, what might have to change within you? Perhaps you've already begun.

The idealistic romantic in your **Fifth House South Node** can be so in love with the idea of love, that it may sometimes cloud your path with romances that aren't quite "real." These derailments of the heart have their purpose. You're meant to raise the vibration of love in your life to a higher plane. Exchange fantasy for the Genuine Article. If you've tended to lean on others for your sense of self esteem, those people and situations that "encourage" (or force?) you to develop more detachment and independence may be blessings in disguise--even if they sometimes hurt! Pride and ego may be unconsciously strong in you, qualities acquired during a past life of privilege or prominence. Despite your prior high station, it's also possible that you rarely let yourself really feel what it's like to be loved by others. Genuinely receiving love can be terrifying! Ever wonder if that charismatic and playful personality is actually a great way to hide your real (and vulnerable) self? You might worry about not being special, or of not standing out from the crowd, but you will find the peace you've been seeking when you let go of this pressure to be someone.

### the dilemma in the nodes: balancing the polarity

I like the way astrologer Lawrence Hillman characterized the North and South Nodes: It's like when you register for life, you decide you're going to get a Ph.D. in math (North Node), but you somehow neglect to enroll in any math classes; instead you keep taking classes in dance, poetry, music and art (South Node). What the chart can do, is show you where your math class is. That's what the Nodes can help you to do--find the right road. If you are ever afflicted with feelings of meaninglessness, or wonder what your life is for, pointing yourself towards your North Node, doing some North Node activity, can often put you back on track.



I've put a lot of emphasis on cleaning the limitations of the South Node and braving the challenge of the North. But ultimately both are important. So it's not just that you move entirely out of the South into a clean expression of the North--it's the polarity that gets activated, so expect the keywords from both signs to surface in your nodal dilemma. Ultimately the nodal process means more than just moving



from one pole to the other--it's a suggestion that the energies need to be re-balanced in some way. Many of your greatest qualities are wrapped up in the South Node, as perspectives and talents mastered in previous lifetimes of experience. Your South Node qualities are woven powerfully into your nature, and when you come full circle, you can understand--and use--its gifts in a new light.

### when your nodes return

Approximately every eighteen years the transiting nodes return to their natal position in your chart. At the halfway points, approximately every nine years, they are in the reverse alignment to their positions at your birth. These node "returns" and "reverse returns" can mark significant turning points. The choices you make at these times may be especially relevant to the nodal axis in your chart--and can indicate how comfortable (or *uncomfortable*) you are with its challenges. Below are the dates for your first four Node Returns, beginning at ages 18 and 19 (the reverse returns are listed in parentheses). During these years, a decision point might appear where it seems, as in that famous Robert Frost poem, two roads diverge in the wood. What was (or will be) your choice?

<p><b><i>(October, 1916)</i></b> <b><i>March, 1926</i></b> <b><i>(May, 1935)</i></b> <b><i>October, 1944</i></b> <b><i>(February, 1954)</i></b> <b><i>May, 1963</i></b> <b><i>(September, 1972)</i></b> <b><i>November, 1981</i></b></p>
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Think back over your life and the paths you've taken at these and other temporal crossroads; give special attention to those activities drawing from either North or South Node talents. Recalling the more significant choice points, list your decisions in two columns: North Node choices and South Node ones. Analyze the consequences of each direction with a detached frame of mind. What decisions worked best for you? Which ones didn't? How can you use this information to plan a better course to your future? If you can endure the initial difficulties of pursuing the North Node dream, you'll generally find that the way opens up for you. Divine assistance will come. Perhaps not in the exact way you imagined it, but it will come.

After you've made your two lists of North and South experiences, draw a circle around them both. This is a visible mandala of your soul at work in this lifetime!

## a north node/south node story

*Moving to the North Node is something we do over a lifetime. We make incremental progress, spending as much time dismantling the old ideas as we do building the new. You take a step in the new direction, the old voices and fears get provoked, then you step back and try to attend to those voices, and then you take a step forward again. But you can't do this journey unless you first commit to loving the frightened self, both young and ancient, inside your Moon.*

*Being successfully in business for myself as an astrologer is something my Fifth House Capricorn North Node wants me to do. That first summer I officially declared myself an astrologer, I went to an astrology conference and brought with me hundreds of fliers for a new report I'd developed on "Astrology and the Inner Child." I had put over a year and a half's worth of research into the report, and I thought there might be a lot of interest in it, since I hadn't seen any thing like it before and inner child issues were currently a hot topic. I was excited about the prospect of getting business from the conference. But, you know, it wasn't until the last day of the conference that I fully realized and faced that I had kept my fliers in the trunk of my car the whole time! There was even a table in the bookshop set up just for fliers, and I had walked by it dozens of times and didn't once think of adding my fliers to it! Curious, isn't it.*

*It wasn't until the drive home that it came together for me: my Eleventh House South Node was scared to death, convinced that if "they" found out what I was doing, they'd brand me as a fraud, and run me out of the astrological community on a rail. To me, having a high profile (i.e., putting fliers on a table!) would get me burned at the stake!*

*So that was the first step--identifying the South Node fear in my behavior. Not shaming it, just naming it. Next I had to consider whether my fear was realistic or not. Logically, it didn't seem like my actions would draw such persecution, but my fear would not be calmed with mere rationality. A month later I went to another conference and knew that my challenge this time was in putting my fliers out. And of course, the universe raised the bar and made it a little more difficult, since this time there was no conveniently placed table for that purpose. Yet I had to try. So, hot and sweaty, I put a dozen fliers on a corner table in the lounge. I watched from a distance as some people came up and looked at them, even carried a few away. I took no joy from this; my heart was pounding all the time. Yet the second most important thing I did besides putting my fliers out was to love myself through the ordeal. I said "What a good girl you are, how scary this is for you, but I'm so proud of you, and look, nobody is yelling at you, maybe you don't have to be so afraid." The conference lasted three days, and each day I got bolder and better, putting out more and more fliers each time. Though I'll confess that at each plenary session when anyone said "I have an announcement," I fully expected them to say "We've noticed some fliers for someone named Dana Gerhardt and we want you to know the conference does not approve of or endorse her work, and if we catch who's been putting out those fliers, we'll kick that person out of the conference!"*

*Even at the time I could laugh at myself; but, nonetheless, my fear was real. Gradually I risked more and more visibility, and true to the North Node's power, I've been blessed with much positive feedback and success for my work. My South Node fears haven't disappeared, but they've lessened as I get stronger and more experienced at working through them. Which may be just how it goes for you. So name the fears, be a loving, gentle parent as you guide yourself through them, and start acting on your North Node dream.*

## as the moon moves

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### managing lunar transits

On the day you were born the Moon was in Taurus. Shortly after that it moved into Gemini, then Cancer. The Moon changes signs every two to three days. Because the Moon moves through the zodiac so quickly, astrologers often read the Moon as a symbol for the masses, who are also quite changeable and fickle. I'm sure you've sometimes noticed how some days everyone seems to be cutting each other off in traffic or everyone at work is fighting with everybody else; perhaps you thought "there must be something in the air." There was--but it just the Moon. The Moon's movements through the signs governs our changeable, moody selves.

Some signs of the Moon will feel better for you than others. But remember that the Moon's transits go quickly and their effect on your chart is generally swift and subtle. It's those moods that seem to possess you for a few hours or a few days, and then dissolve. You could find a good astrological calendar, or call your astrologer on a daily basis to see what moods are coming--but really, it's much wiser to learn how to handle these transits yourself. I call it tuning into the Moon and your inner lunar nature. Take some time to learn about your feelings and how to manage your lunar moods.

### strengthening your lunar container

One way to think of the Moon is as a container. Just as the Moon in the sky "holds" the light of the Sun, the Moon inside you "holds" your emotional life. Most people want only to hold onto positive emotions--that is, they want only happiness and joy. But to think this way is actually cheating yourself. All emotions have value. Experiencing the full range of your feelings, even the so-called "bad" ones, such as anger, loss, or grief, adds tremendous depth and richness to your life. Your difficult emotions will give birth to your creativity, your compassion, and your willingness to make positive change. Your tears will release toxins, much as a rainstorm clears the air. It's important then, not just to learn keys to your happiness, but to learn how to embrace all your feelings--what I call strengthening the walls of your lunar container.

Think of people you know with weak emotional boundaries. These are the neighbors who are constantly screaming; you hear their doors slam, threats, tires screeching out of the driveway. This type is overwhelmed by their feelings; they react to everything. Now think of the people you know with emotional walls so thick nobody ever knows what they're feeling. This type may one day evolve into

one of those "quiet guys" who suddenly snaps and takes his Uzi down to Sears and starts blasting because his watch was improperly repaired! I think it's important to learn about feelings. Of all the things we're taught in school, we rarely learn how to manage our own insides--and yet isn't that sometimes the most difficult thing we have to do?

Of course the trick is to get your walls just right, to have the inner strength to respond honestly to your life with all your feelings, without having to go over the edge or to shove it all down. Each of us is given a different set of astrological circumstances to work with, but all of us must craft, through our own experiences, our own emotional walls. We're each like the potter, sitting down to the wet clay of our life, and running our hands over the edge of the spinning pot, trying to work the walls to the point where they're fine enough to be beautiful but not so thin that they'll break. But if they do break, know that you can begin the process over again, each time with greater understanding and skill.

The next section offers a technique personalized to your Moon, which will help you creatively tune in to your feelings and strengthen your emotional walls. It draws on the elements underlying your Taurus Moon: **earth** and **fire**. Visualizing fire or earth or actually bringing them into your environment are powerful, nonlogical ways to balance your emotions. *As the **fire** element is in relatively low supply in your chart, connection with this vibration may be particularly important to you for keeping a sense of emotional well-being and balance. Experiment and see!*

## feeling earth and fire

If you practice this exercise a few times at home, you'll become skilled enough to apply it quickly in any situation when your feelings are out of control. By "out of control" I mean either being so overwhelming you're close to acting inappropriately, or being so shut down that you feel listless, depressed, or unattached and uninvolved with your life.

1. Take a few deep breaths and begin to center your attention in your body. Try to find where the feeling is located. The two most common places are the heart and the gut, but *since Taurus rules the throat, you might even find it there (as persistent sore throats, thyroid problems, or losing your voice)*. Once you've located the feeling, take a few minutes to simply notice the sensation. Move into the feeling. Describe it in physical terms rather than emotional. Does it have a shape and a size? What's the physical quality of that emotion? Does it burn? Does it feel like lead? When you can describe the feeling in this way, you're actually well on the way to accepting and containing it!

2. Now you'll apply a mental picture to that sensation in your body--to either calm it or energize it, whichever is more appropriate.

If you need to calm your feelings, bring the bright warmth of **fire** to whatever area is emotionally charged--this is a way to "burn them up," so to speak. Imagine yourself sitting in front of a fireplace or campfire. See the dancing flames, and note the nuances in the shades of colors, red, yellow, orange, white hot; feel the warmth open the pores on your skin. Gradually, draw this sensation up through your pores and let it penetrate into all charged, out-of-control places. Stay with this feeling until your body sensation changes.



If you need to energize your feelings, draw the strength of **earth** into your body. Imagine you are a powerful tree, taller than the trees around you. You have been here a long time. Your deep roots know how to hold and stabilize you. They know how to draw strength from the rich, nurturing earth. You are filled with the vitality of earth; there is nothing you can't achieve! Stay with this sensation until your body feels the power the tree must feel. Know that this energy is something you can call on whenever you need to.



Visualizing is a powerful gift from our remarkable brain. There's so much power in our minds that we haven't even begun to use! But more and more, people are understanding there's an intimate link between our bodies, our minds, and our feelings. It's worth developing more conscious control!

One last way to help balance your feelings by working with the elements is to literally bring these elements into your environment. Get out into Nature often to get your supply of **earth** energy, or bring crystals or stones or fresh plants into your environment. Touch these things whenever you need grounding. Garden. For further grounding, eat heavier foods grown in the ground or close to it, such as beets, potatoes, squashes. Get out into the **sunshine** as often as you can; if this is difficult, try saunas, hot baths or herbal heating rubs. If you feel a chronic lack of fire in your life (feelings of apathy, listlessness, lack of courage), eat plenty of spicy foods, with ginger or cayenne. Vigorous physical exercise also promotes fire.

### planetary transits to your natal moon

Your birth Moon describes your innate emotional approach to life, but of course this approach is always changing as you grow and evolve. We've been talking about the Moon's transits through the signs and how that can affect your moods. But there's another, more powerful indicator for periods of emotional intensity in your life: when another planet touches your Moon. Although it is beyond the scope of this report to look too deeply into this factor, you should know that the transits of the planets through the signs can "trigger" the Moon in your chart in either comfortable or uncomfortable ways. Each transiting planet will affect your Moon according to its nature – Jupiter bringing expansion, for example, or Pluto bringing transformation. But it is important to remember that the most potent seeds for each transit's manifestation lie within the context of your life – the accumulation of choices made and conditions set before the transit is what ripens under the influence of the transiting planet. Wise preparation is key. Know your Moon, know yourself. The astrological Moon is merely a symbol: a special way to focus on your real life emotional blessings or problems, what's cooked over time by your own experiences and responses.

Your natal Moon "remembers" these experiences and throws them up for revision whenever another planet passes through the same zodiacal space. Studying the motion of these planets around your chart can help you to participate more consciously in these phases of emotional growth. Particularly when the slower moving planets from Jupiter to Pluto make an aspect to your natal Moon, you might find yourself in a period of emotional change or confusion that could last from several weeks to several months. Because these transits are often meant to bring you to a new level of awareness, it's often helpful to get someone else's feedback at this time--whether a good friend, a therapist, or an astrologer. A fresh

perspective helps. If you're in touch with your emotional side, chances are these times go much easier. But if you're not paying attention, the intensity of the experience can build in order to get your attention. But basically the universe is always on your side. Outer planet transits ask you to look at certain facets of your life so you can get free of things you need to lose or strengthen things you need to build.

If your Moon is receiving any hard transits from Jupiter, Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto in the coming year, the dates will follow here. (Listed dates indicate when the aspect is exact, but for many, the changes associated with the aspect can be felt beyond this timeframe – in the days and weeks before and/or after. More important than the exact time is recognizing the symbolic intent of the period.)



***Transiting Jupiter conjunct natal Moon:***

*The guru meets your Moon and provokes a revealing of what is there. This can be an optimistic, positive time--or just positively emotional! Whether jubilant or jarring, honor what shows up as a necessary illumination. Make space for your feelings; enlightenment can come from the simple acknowledgement of your emotions, without having to buy into the drama of the moment. Nurture perspective. What would your current situation look like if viewed from the lofty heights of a mountaintop? Is it time to take new risks? Someone in particular might act as Jupiter's messenger to bring you this new inspiration. This transit begins a new twelve year cycle between transiting Jupiter and your natal Moon. You are at the beginning of a new adventure. Where do you want to go? Transits often respond to your intentions.*

*June 9, 2012 to June 10, 2012*

***Transiting Saturn inconjunct natal Moon:***

*The Task Master meets your Moon and arranges either a test or a new teaching for you. Saturn believes in "tough love." This period may feel lonely. If you're looking for emotional support from those around you, you may not get it. But the purpose of the time is to recognize just how much support you can actually draw from the spiritual source within. If Saturn aspects your natal Moon or is otherwise prominent in your chart, you may be so used to this teacher's style, that you hardly notice this transit. In that case, you might want to use this time to focus your efforts towards a worthy goal. Saturn responds to those who take responsibility and are willing to work hard. Exercising these virtues can make the time more successful for you (and conversely, whining and resistance can make things more painful). The inconjunct can bring a period of instability, but the act of finding your ground may be exactly what you need. Saturn often slows things down so that proper attention can be given them. Rewards may be delayed, but don't worry, the Task Master isn't one to forget. Positive efforts now will reap their benefits in time.*

*October 1, 2012 to October 3, 2012*



# lunations: perfect timing

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## new and full moons

### do the phases of the moon affect you?

The phases of the Moon affect the tides, affect the fish, affect the plants growing in the fields--but do the phases of the Moon affect you? Scientific research has established time and again the link between life on Earth and the lunar cycles. In one such study, a biology professor at Northwestern University, Dr. Frank A. Brown, measured the metabolic activity of a number of life forms--potatoes, carrots, salamanders, earthworms--and discovered that each moved in rhythm with the Moon, seeming to know by its metabolic response, even under laboratory conditions, where the Moon was in its cycle.

Since the human body is largely made up of water, many believe we feel the Moon's gravitational pull as much as the ocean's tides do. Scientists are quick, however, to point out that a large body of water with plenty of exposed surface may be more easily affected by gravitation than one enclosed by skin such as ours. Nonetheless, there's strong belief in lunar influence. Hospitals tend to report more births at the New and Full Moons. Police Departments report more murders, thefts, arsons and assaults. Admissions at psychiatric hospitals can increase, particularly at the Full Moon. Physiological studies reveal a higher than average amount of electricity in the body at these times, as well as greater dream and muscle action during sleep, and a greater likelihood of excessive bleeding from cuts or surgeries.

An American scientist, Dr. E.M. Dewan, believed the female 29-day menstrual cycle was too close to the 29-day lunar cycle to be coincidental, but he was puzzled why so many women's cycles were irregular and not universally synchronized to the moon's phases. He theorized that artificial lighting and other electromagnetic irregularities in the environment might be interfering with the lunar connection. He tested his theory by asking 20 women with irregular menstrual cycles to leave a light on in their bedrooms at the onset of ovulation for three successive nights, hoping to interrupt the artificial cycle and restore the women to the lunar rhythm. The results were dramatic; every single woman in the study regularized her cycle!

There's an old Buddhist saying that the spoon can lie in the bowl a thousand years and never know the flavor of the soup. I wonder how many people are like that spoon--living their whole lives under the Moon and never knowing its power. We're surrounded by computer terminals, artificial lights, electronic appliances, high tension wires. Are these the new deities? How much further out of step will we become? Having lost the lunar connection and racing headlong towards his and

this planet's destruction, civilized man has proven himself the single greatest danger to life on Earth.

So-called "primitive" man was far more advanced in understanding humanity's role as caretaker of this planet. We need to get back some of that sensitivity. The Moon can teach us. When we connect with the Moon, we connect with all living things on this planet. Ever wondered why the phases of the Moon are listed on so many calendars? It's a vestige from a time when man used to know what that meant! We used to know how and why to schedule our activities in synch with the Moon. Perhaps it's not too late to learn – even to innovate anew. We live in a different world than our ancestors, but it still has a Moon. Which contemporary activities might be optimized by coordination with the lunar cycle? Experiment and observe the results!



### *your lunation birthday*

The New and Full Moons are generally the most potent times in the monthly lunar cycle, but each of us may reach an individual peak every month during the phase corresponding to our natal Moon--which for you is at the **Balsamic** Moon. The days of the Balsamic Moon represent your monthly lunar birthday. Since your natal moon phase carries the combined energy of the Sun and Moon in your chart, it may represent one of your chart's most intimate expressions of your life purpose. Setting time aside during your monthly Moon birthday to meditate on your life purpose can be a powerful way to keep your life on track and full of meaning. You might also find that you can be more productive and creative at this time. You might access a feeling of being on your game plan, of stepping into your own power, as though some invisible doorway had opened into the cosmos and rushed some extra energy your way. Whatever it is you came here to do, you can probably count on doing more of it and doing it better at the Balsamic Moon.

(Actually, for many women, the increased fertility generally associated with the lunation birthday is often literally true. A surprising number of unexpected pregnancies can be traced to conception during the phase of a woman's birth Moon--whether or not that was the normal time for ovulation during her cycle. A Czech psychiatrist, Dr. Eugen Jonas, established this fact with an 87% success

rate!)

Ultimately, the experience of your lunar birthday will be a distinctly personal one. It's a time when a special vibration inside you rises to meet a similar and very powerful outer vibration emanating from the Moon. It's like two tuning forks resonating at the same tone. You should feel this one from the inside out. Depending on your level of sensitivity, this might initially be a subtle experience for you, but you can strengthen it with practice and attention. Notice how you feel at the Balsamic Moon over the next few months. Your own experience will be the best teacher. I think you'll eventually consider these days a monthly cosmic gift you'll want to use for the rest of your life!

Following are the dates for the Balsamic Moon in the coming year. If you study the Moon's position in her cycle and the way she looks in the sky on these dates, you should eventually be able to know when it's your lunar birthday without consulting a calendar:

<i>June 15 - 19, 2012</i>
<i>July 14 - 18</i>
<i>August 13 - 17</i>
<i>September 12 - 15</i>
<i>October 11 - 15</i>
<i>November 10 - 13</i>
<i>December 9 - 13</i>
<i>January 8 - 11, 2013</i>
<i>February 6 - 9</i>
<i>March 7 - 11</i>
<i>April 6 - 10</i>
<i>May 5 - 9</i>
<i>June 4 - 8</i>

## **the new and full moons**

At each lunation birthday your inner sense of purpose is amplified. At the New and Full Moons each month you can also participate in the resonance of a much larger cycle. The New Moon is a powerful time for beginnings all over the planet; the Full Moon is a potent time for realizations.

**new moon**

The days just prior to the New Moon are a good time for releasing old habits and for doing introspective, meditative work. If you've kept yourself in tune with the waning moon, you're likely more aware at this time of what has and hasn't been working in your life. Your motivation to clean house – physically or psychically may be especially keen. Listen to your intuitions about making personal changes. You can more easily discipline yourself now; you're less tempted to indulge in excesses or be distracted by others' demands. It's a good time for quiet preparation because once the New Moon arrives, you'll want to take advantage of the strong concentration of energy available for launching new projects or goals. Open yourself to new possibilities at the New Moon. Get ready: three to four days after the New Moon, it's an optimum time to focus your aspirations into a clear goal. Know that you may need to face your fears and overcome your inertia. The two weeks from New Moon to Full new action is blessed. These are the days for actively building your project or dream into reality.

More is visible at the Full Moon; greater clarity is available. **full moon**

It's a good time to reckon the results of what you've been building, or to take stock in a particular area of your life. Pay attention to the messages you're receiving from those around you. The Full Moon represents a turning point in the cycle of development, because now the focus shifts from action to understanding. The weeks just after the Full Moon are best for mental effort, for uncovering the meaning in your work, or the reasons behind the results seen at the Full. When the Moon is Full, the Sun and Moon are in direct opposition to one another. It's high tide time emotionally. But the Full Moon is only a volatile time if you're out of touch with your emotional life; watch out for others who are!

## developing your own rituals

Taking time out to honor the New and Full Moons each month is a highly rewarding practice. If your life tends to run at an unnatural pace, this effort will ground you. Whether you're bound by unnatural deadlines or trapped inside even well-intentioned routines--or, at the opposite end, often found drifting in space with no clear direction or goal--either way, tuning into the Moon will bring you into balance. By stopping twice a month to turn your eyes skyward, you will also bring your feet firmly onto the ground. This is Earth work as much as it is Moon work. And it is highly sacred work too. Join the rest of humanity committed to returning harmony and balance to the planet. Make a commitment to the Moon.

Create your own Moon ceremonies, with a friend or on your own. Build an altar. Burn candles. Design a personal mandala with your crystals and stones. Read from a spiritual book that has meaning for you. Write goals and affirmations. Throw your Rune stones. Whatever has meaning for you. I know one man who at

every New Moon writes a check for what he'd like to receive that month and signs it from "the Universe." I know a woman who at every Full Moon prays for peace on the planet. It's not so important what you do as that you do it. The more personally meaningful, the better.

After honoring the New and Full Moons in various ways for the past ten years, I've come to believe that the simplest rituals are quietly beautiful and often the most meaningful. At each New Moon I symbolically renew my life by replacing the kitchen sponge; I renew my garden by fertilizing my roses. At the Full Moon I sit and watch the moonrise from my backyard. What's most important is to make yourself available to the Moon's inspiration. Be creative and courageous enough to stick with this practice until it's an integral part of your life. The next section will provide added focus for your next twelve months of ceremonies, by identifying the significant astrological focal points for you each month.

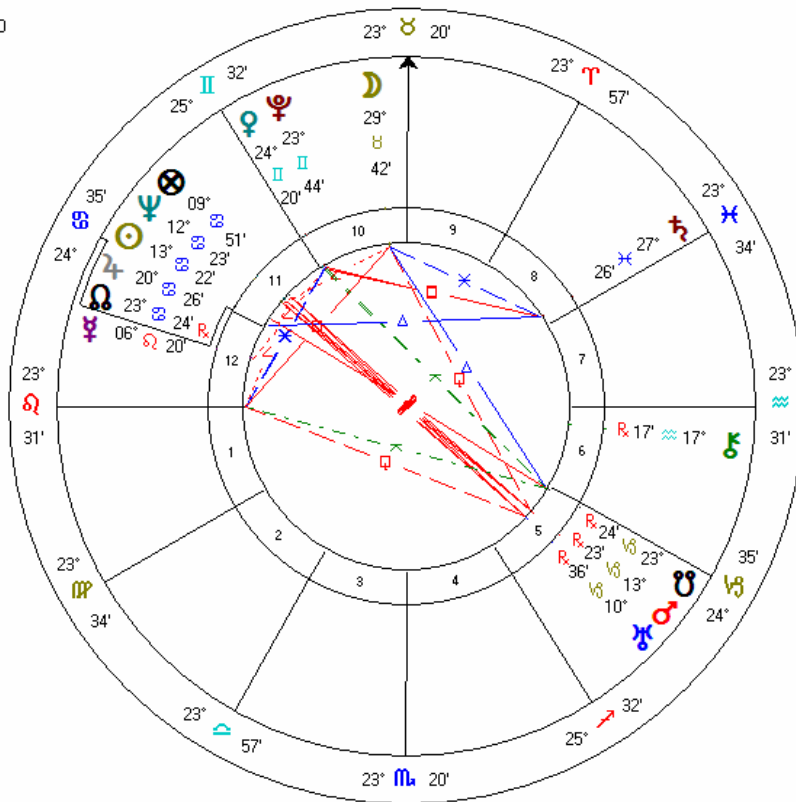
### *your monthly lunar focus*

On the next page, you'll find a copy of your astrological chart. Notice that it's divided into twelve sections (called "houses"). Each house signifies a particular aspect of your life, such as your relationships, your finances, your family, your career, etc. The question most frequently asked astrologers is about the seemingly empty slices of the pie--"If my relationship house is empty, does that mean I won't have any relationships?" Not at all! Actually, no house is ever empty--there's a sign on each house and a planet somewhere in your chart influencing every single slice. If you've ever read a book of Sun sign descriptions and found that you identified with each one, that's because you do have all twelve signs somewhere in your chart! So, even if you see a slice of the pie that looks empty, it does not mean that area of life is empty for you. It's just that houses with planets in them generally signify areas of greater emphasis or intensity.

Every year brings twelve to thirteen New Moons, cycling through the zodiac, highlighting a different area of your chart each month. This will sometimes overlap, energizing the same house for two successive New Moons. But basically, over the course of a year, the New Moons will circle around your chart and concentrate energy into each of the houses it touches. Each New Moon, then, is an opportunity for you to focus on a particular area of your life--to transform, strengthen, revise, or dream there--whatever is most appropriate given your current life circumstances. For example, when the New Moon occurs in your relationship house, it's time to clarify what you want to give and receive in all your relationships, whether you're currently involved in a romantic one or not (and if you're not, and want to be, it's a good time to ask the Universe to bring that to you!). At the Full Moon two weeks later, you'll see the results of your intentions and will also gain new insights or new direction in that facet of your life.

Over the next year the New Moons will take you around the full wheel of your chart. In each house where the New Moon falls, there will be opportunities for growth. They may not necessarily coincide with dramatic events in your life, though events often do occur where your mental focus lies. To get the most from each New Moon, go beyond the descriptions in each paragraph and connect the words to what is actually happening in your life each month. The more observant and involved you are, the more meaning each New and Full Moon will have for you. New or Full Moons that fall in houses where you have planets may have deeper significance for you.

**Frida Kahlo**  
**Female Chart**  
 Jul 6 1907, Sat  
 8:30 am LMT +6:36:40  
 Coyoacan, Mexico  
 19°N20' 099°W10'  
*Geocentric*  
*Tropical*  
*Koch*  
*True Node*  
 Rating: AA



Happy Birthday, Frida! What have you been most curious about lately? The **Gemini** New Moon on **June 19** is a great time for learning something new, and for increasing your connections throughout the community. Talk, read, network, listen. If the Taurus lunar cycle has left you feeling a bit rigid or inflexible about something, Gemini can bring you a greater ability to adapt. The Gemini New Moon occurs in your **Eleventh House** of groups and organizations. This may be a good month for you to evaluate the role you play in any organizations you belong to, or

more broadly, how you want to fit in the human community at large. If the Tenth House is the "noun," how your role is named in society, then the Eleventh House is the "verb," how you actually maneuver in your social tribe. Who you maneuver with is also important this month, as friendships are also highlighted. Are you attracting the kinds of friends you really want? If so, this would be a fine time to honor those positive connections (Don't wait for Hallmark to create a national Friends Day!). If not, see what you can do to reach out and make new connections (this, of course, is the networking house!). The Eleventh House is also a visionary house of future hopes and dreams. The Full Moon on **July 3** may require that you refocus those energies that have become too scattered. If too much is going on around you, review your social commitments and the list of activities you're responsible to and decide what you are most willing to be responsible to. Draw a mandala and place within only what nourishes your higher spirit. The Climb to higher ground, so to speak, and get a better perspective on what's important and what's not.

In general, the **Cancer** cycle asks you to consider how nurturing are the people and routines you've currently built into your life; it asks you to consider the child within, and whether you're taking care of that child lovingly and wisely, or abandoning that vulnerable part of yourself to the vicissitudes of your relationships. And more specifically to this year's growth, Cancer asks you to nurture whatever seeds you've been planting this year. What projects have been your focus? This is the month to cultivate them with special care. The **July 18** New Moon highlights your **Twelfth House** of dreams and spirituality. This month's cycle suggests putting more energy into contacting your creative source, on doing what you need to do to balance the inner you. Make some time to retreat from the demands of the outer world so you can contact the spirits within. Listen to your dreams, meditate, relax and renew your soul. This is a good month to build or find a sanctuary just for you--someplace where you can be at peace and uninterrupted by the stresses of the outer world. The Full Moon on **August 1** is a good time to celebrate your mothering energy. Honor those things you've chosen to nurture--whether it's the relationships around you, those ideas and projects important to your heart, or most important, the child within you. If you're feeling cranky, it could be that inner child feeling neglected!

**Leo** is the sign of the leader, the actor, the lover, and the child. As a Fire sign, it's warm, spontaneous, and creative. This month's New Moon on **August 17** is a good time for you to boldly bring some of Leo's positive energy into your life. Leo the lion's spirit focuses energy on your **First House** persona. This month highlights your relating style and the image you project to others. Evaluate your personal style this month, dress up your image if you'd like, or experiment with changes in the way you interact with others. What sort of feedback do you get from those around you? How does it feel to be you? First House lunations are

also a good time to watch your health and nutrition; bring yourself into your body with some new exercises. *This New Moon is also conjunct your natal **Ascendant**, which doubles the "fresh start" feeling of this New Moon. You are beginning a new annual cycle of lunations going through the houses of your chart. Attention this month is on self-development – how you look, how you relate to others, how you approach life's challenges.* The Full Moon on **August 31** is a good time to stand on center stage and acknowledge what you see. Can you admit what's special and worth admiring about yourself? Don't wait for others to speak up first; what you appreciate in yourself can radiate as magnetic confidence to others. Now's not the time to be harsh or self-critical (wait for Virgo to do that!). Most of us could do with a little applause now and then. And if you've got any appreciation left over, there's probably someone around you who could use a few positive strokes as well.

The **Virgo** cycle asks you to analyze and reassess your progress thus far this year, making any necessary adjustments in your current routines, or perfecting those techniques most useful in your daily life. This New Moon on **September 15** occurs in your **Second House** of finances and personal resources. It's a good time to take stock of your net worth and consider how well you're managing it--and what you can do to increase it if you'd like! Your special talents are resources too--are you making use of all your gifts and abilities? If there's a particular talent of yours you've neglected for a while, now is the time to enjoy and exercise it again. Ultimately the Second House is about values--about valuing yourself, and prioritizing what you value most in the outside world. Tally up both and see if your lifestyle is consistent with your sense of self worth and your dearest beliefs. The Full Moon on **September 29** may be a great time to take action on your thoughts. Don't forget to call on your inner faith and sense of trust in the universe to carry you forward. The days just prior to this Full Moon are excellent for spiritual realignment. Meditate, let go, dream a little, and then go!

The **Libra** cycle may bring new choices or new relationships into your life that ask you to realign your priorities or make some new decisions. The key words for Libra are "harmony" and "balance"--are you doing too much of some things and not enough of others? Be sensitive at this time to any imbalances in your life. Strive for more harmony. The New Moon on **October 15** continues to highlight your **Second House**, so any projects involving personal resources initiated last month may continue to be important now. Ultimately the Second House is about values--about valuing yourself, and prioritizing what you value most in the outside world. Tally up both and see if your lifestyle is consistent with your sense of self worth and your dearest beliefs. At the Full Moon on **October 29** you can harvest the rewards of your efforts. At this time of year farmers traditionally reap their last harvests and begin their preparations for the Winter months. It may be the time for you as well to turn inward and prepare for the months ahead.



**Scorpio** is the sign of transformation and regeneration. Its energy is intense and passionate. But one of the keys to its power is the ability to let go--of things, people, or attitudes that are no longer appropriate to the new you being born. In the waxing days of this cycle, you may want to consider whether you're currently holding on to something that you need to let go of--in order to make room for a new birth. The New Moon occurs on **November 13** and energizes your **Third House** of communication, schooling, neighbors or siblings, and short distance travels. That's a wide range of themes, isn't it! But basically, the Third House is the "thought" house. Check to see what you're thinking these days. Are you speaking your mind when you need to? Is there something new you'd like to learn? Perhaps a short trip might help to clear your mind and lead the way to new doorways of thought. The Third House is often busy with activity, so you might find the pace of your life increases somewhat this month. Enjoy it--but watch your stress level too! The Full Moon on **November 28** should be a time of centering into your own inner power. Connect to your inner fire, your passion, just as the red and gold leaves of autumn around you preserve the passion of the summer sun. Consolidate your strength.

On the November 13 New Moon there's a Solar Eclipse. On the November 28 Full Moon there's a Lunar Eclipse. Eclipses can bring unexpected, even disruptive events. If the eclipse brings a crisis to the houses affected in your chart, understand that this is, in some way, meant to be a "house cleaning," a clearing away of something you no longer need. The best way to prepare for a coming eclipse is to minimize your commitments, keeping your schedule loose and flexible, so you'll have the necessary time and energy to deal with anything unexpected that occurs. Eclipses don't have to be disruptive experiences. One way to think of the coming eclipse is as a doorway; you'll be passing through this doorway to something new, leaving something old behind you. Is there something you need to leave behind or clear out of your life?

While every New Moon is a good time to think of future goals, at the **Sagittarius** New Moon on **December 13**, it's an especially good time for refueling your aspirations. Look ahead. What can you do to broaden your horizons? What new experiences can you cultivate that will bring you greater knowledge and wisdom? What's inside to help--or hinder--you in creating a brighter future? The New Moon occurs in your **Fourth House** of emotional roots and nourishment. This might especially bring your home and family into focus, two significant emotional support systems. Take a look at the place you're living in--are you taking enough care of it so that it takes care of you? Do something to renew your home environment so that it feels even cozier and more nurturing. "Family" does not have to mean just your family of origin; you might take some time this month to honor whatever circle of people you consider your support. The Fourth is also the house of beginnings and endings; if something ends this month, something new must surely be around

the corner. At the Full Moon on **December 28**, reflect on the best ways to nurture your dreams. What have you learned since the New Moon? What new horizons are beckoning?

The **Capricorn** New Moon on **January 11** asks you to consider what you are responsible to. Capricorn is about work and the achievements that come through effort. It's about taking authority over your life, your Capricorn house in particular. Until you're ready to claim this authority, you may find the shadow side of Capricorn here--pessimism, self-doubt, inadequacy. Which side of Capricorn are you expressing this month? Hard work and a realistic approach are favored now. This New Moon energizes your **Fifth House** of children, romance, and creativity--on the surface, a strange bundle of themes! Yet what children, romance, and creativity have in common is a strong connection to vitality and life force. We're alive when we're creating, or in love, or like a child at play. Take a new risk. Say yes to a spontaneous invitation this month! The Fifth House is the house of heart and the house of fun--bring balance to your life now with lots of both. The Full Moon on **January 26** is a good time to evaluate the societal roles you are playing. What kind of example do you set for those around you? How well do the structures in your life serve your needs for authority?

**Aquarius** is the sign of the independent thinker, the iconoclast, the rebel. It's also the sign of progress and invention. At the Aquarius New Moon on **February 9**, what sort of new inspiration or innovation can you draw into your life? Your Aquarius House where you're meant to be a nonconformist, to do things a little differently from the crowd, where you can receive--and give out--higher inspiration. This New Moon highlights your **Sixth House** of work, health and daily routines. It's a good time to look at how you're spending your days, literally. Are you engaged in work that you enjoy? Are you getting enough rest and exercise to keep your body feeling vibrant and energized. It's a good time to launch new habits if you need to. The Sixth House brings you into the present moment--to examine what you *do* day-to-day and how that makes you feel. Your health and energy level are often a reflection of how you feel about your daily work and how self nourishing are your routines. One of the secrets of the sixth house is attention to the little things in life--this is the monthly cycle to renew your joy in the perfection of small things. The Full Moon on **February 25** is a good time to reality check, and see how well you've integrated your other worldly ideas into earth space, so that they can ultimately serve and advance the good of the group. The world needs different drummers to keep us moving into future realms.

The **Pisces** New Moon on **March 11** highlights the world of dreams, your imagination, and your spiritual ability to trust in things you cannot see. Where Pisces falls in your chart, you may have a tendency to be idealistic, compassionate and self-sacrificing--or subject to disillusionment, escapism, or martyrdom. The

Pisces New Moon is a good time to consider where you're placing your faith these days, and to renew your faith or question it if necessary. This lunation energizes your **Seventh House**. You may learn the most this month from partners--all those one-to-one relationships, whether romantic or business (including clients, counselors and teachers). Get curious about the people around you and see what they have to teach you. It's also a good month to consider all those closely involved in your life as mirrors, consciously or unconsciously bringing to your attention something about you that you may not be recognizing. If this lunation brings positive acknowledgement, take that in! If it shows you some areas that need improvement, be willing to face that too. The Full Moon on **March 27** can bring you greater enlightenment--either by reaching a peak of spiritual awareness, or simply lightening up! This can be also a good time for creative expression--honor this Full Moon with by letting your imagination and inspiration dance into form. Do something--a poem, a drawing--for fun and for free.

**Aries** is the sign of the pioneer. It rules both adventure and identity. Putting the two together, the Aries New Moon on **April 10** energizes that peculiarly individual adventure of you being you. What new experiences are you reaching for? And just who are you these days anyway! Aries is the sign of new beginnings, making this a great time for energizing any facets of yourself that have lain dormant for awhile. The Aries New Moon focuses energy into your **Eighth House** of transformation. This house holds the past and other keys to psychological exploration. If any relationship issues surfaced last month, this month may bring new awarenesses of old relating patterns. Because the Eighth House is the house of transformation, subjects you investigate and nurture now can change you on a very deep level. Favored are metaphysics, the occult, and psychology--subjects that dig beneath the surface of life. The Eighth House is also about passion, what-or who--can you get passionate about this month?! The Full Moon on **April 25** may reveal a deeper layer to your nature, one that has perhaps been previously hidden. Your relationships may provide the mirror to show you this deeper side of yourself.

On the April 25 Full Moon there's a Lunar Eclipse. On the May 9 New Moon there's a Solar Eclipse. On the May 24 Full Moon there's a Lunar Eclipse. Remember that eclipses can indicate abrupt change. Check your expectations. Acknowledge whatever occurs as something that has been in the shadows that is now ready to be revealed. If you'd like to minimize your risks, spend the weeks ahead of the eclipse season doing some "space clearing." Where in your home or office has the most clutter collected? Clutter is often the physical expression of unconscious holding on. The act of clearing these areas may free up the eclipse energy to move in more positive directions. And that's the other side of the eclipse coin – energy is available for change. Where would you like to move? Take whatever shows up as feedback on this goal!

The **Taurus** New Moon on **May 9** highlights your sense of value--both the worth that's inside of you as well as the outer worth you can measure by your possessions. This is a good time for building greater security into your life, by increasing either your inner or outer worth. This is the sign of pleasure and self-indulgence, so be on the lookout for opportunities for sensual enjoyment this month too. The Taurus New Moon highlights your **Ninth House** of Higher Mind. This is the house of the "quest"--that which draws your spirit beyond your present situation and into new adventures. It's good to give yourself some extra space when you're in the Ninth House--to help open up your thinking and awaken the inner wanderer. So take a trip this month, either literally or figuratively--get away, read a book, open yourself up to some new vistas. With new perspectives, you can draw in the new wisdoms your Higher Mind is holding for you. The Full Moon on **May 24** can bring you a deeper understanding of whatever emotional issues you're currently facing. The Full Moon's potential for clarity is best realized when you go "underground" in some respects. Try to get underneath the surface of what's happening now. Look for root causes in your own psychological make-up.

## the evolving moon

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### your progressed moon

The Moon teaches us that the key to life is simple: it's understanding that life is always changing. Life is a process, with beginnings, middles, and endings to everything we undertake. Going with the cycles of our lives rather than resisting them leads to greater success. Each month at the waxing Moon you have an opportunity to build something new into your life, to evaluate the results of your efforts at the Full, and to continue to learn and face yourself critically at the waning cycle--letting go of what is no longer useful, and making room for the next new birth. Such is the process of life.



In this section you'll learn about a cycle that proceeds along the same rhythm, but over a much longer period; instead of a month, it stretches across thirty years. This cycle passes through eight distinct phases; every three to four years, you enter a new phase. Your Lunar Blueprint represents a subjective cycle, not timed by any outer movement in the sky, but by an inner movement, what astrologers call the "progressed" Moon. The progressed Moon is calculated from the transits of the Moon in the days immediately following your birth; one day of the Moon's movement after your birth is progressed to equal one year of your life. I know this technique sounds crazy, but it works! Whether or not you've been consciously aware of it, your progressing Moon has been in some way directing your approach to life. As the Moon progresses through the houses of your chart, your perceptions of yourself and the life around you evolve.

You are not the same you that you were ten years ago. "Of course," you think, "but I've had experiences that have changed me." But fundamentally, it's not so much the experiences you've had as your *understanding* of those experiences that

shapes you. This is the area governed by the progressed Moon. As it travels through the houses of your chart, it describes the shifts in your emotional concerns. The house position of your progressed Moon shows where you're rethinking things, where your evolving heart is plowing the current mysteries of your life. The sign it's in gives a clue to your current emotional style, how you're processing your emotions these days.

## where your progressed moon is now

Currently your progressed Moon is traveling through **Aries** in the **Eighth House**.

*To correlate this movement with your own experience, try tracking any internal shifts against the following dates: The Moon entered Aries on April 18, 2012 and will leave July 4, 2014. It entered the Eighth house on October 31, 2011 and will leave January 20, 2014.*

Given the fiery, impulsive style of **Aries**, you may feel more inclined now to act first and think later. This can be a particularly physical time – you might be motivated to renew your gym membership or take that old racing bike out of the garage. Getting yourself into action will feel especially good. This can also be a fine time for taking risks or initiating new adventures; you may be able to tap into a courage you didn't know you had. The Aries Moon is "me first!" energy, which of course can be quite subjective, even selfish, so it's wise to people-check from time to time to see if you're stepping on anyone else's toes. Not everyone will be able to move at your swift pace. Aries is ruled by Mars – the Warrior's planet. This sign's progression is for developing your independence, courage and fighting spirit. Should challenges arise, recognize you have the added support of this Aries spirit to draw upon. Don't back down where you may have before. Stand for what you believe. Strive to be respectful, wise, and strong. Look in the mirror and honor the fine warrior in front of you.

The Moon in the **Eighth House** suggests that something may be ending in your life. This is the house of "death," but the deaths here are generally more symbolic than literal, and ultimately, like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, can have the effect of transformation and renewal. Money issues sometimes surface when the Moon is in this house. Your relationships may also be undergoing revision as you spend this time sorting through the past and the people in your life and what it all means. This is the when the universal Pandora opens your personal box – it's time to see what's been hidden, even if you don't always like the view. Some of the demons you encounter may be the ghostly remnants of your past selves – whatever conditions currently exist in your life, it was a succession of prior "yous" who brought them there! So make like a snake and shed. Strip down to the essentials. This may not be a particularly carefree or social time, but spiritually, it can be quite positive. Get intimate with the inner you, cleansing and clearing the

old psychic baggage. Don't avoid intense emotional experiences, for you'll gain depth, power and courage by surrendering honestly to them. Solo time is important for this psychic work, but you might also find yourself longing for some deeply intimate connections. To the extent these don't exist in your life, look for the barriers to intimacy within. Dissolving them can be scary – but think of how exhilarating it would feel to find yourself rising like the Phoenix, unafraid, with a new passion for your life and others.

## the progressed lunation cycle: your lunar blueprint

The progressed Moon provides a shape, a context for the events in your life, much as the Moon in the sky gives form to the reflected light of the Sun. The progressed Moon's path is the path of reflection. The phases it describes may or may not trigger actual events in your life, but they will provide a context for understanding any events that occur.



Each time I share this Lunar Blueprint with a client, I am amazed at the perfection of the cycle, and the beauty of the different applications in every life I see. I describe the lunar phases in as broad terms as possible, because the specifics vary so widely for each individual. What unfolds in your cycle may be about relationships, or more subjectively, about your patterns of thinking, behaving or feeling, or more tangibly, about actual goals such as a career, or some idea you're trying to build into reality. Your Lunar Blueprint will come to life for you when you begin connecting it to actual experiences during the years described by each phase. In the space provided on each page, jot down some of the major turning points of each cycle. I'm confident you'll find a fascinating pattern will emerge.

Since you are in the opening half of your current lunar cycle, most of the dates listed are for future years. You can read the phases with an eye towards planning your long-term goals. But you have also experienced these phases before. To connect the phases back to your previous cycle, ***consult the list of dates for your previous cycle at the end of the report.***

One of the greatest values of the Lunar Blueprint, I think, is through the retrospective understanding it provides. One of the best ways to guide where you're going is to find out first where you've been! This should also give you a good opportunity to see for yourself how well the progressed lunation cycle fits your experience.

Prior years that may be of special interest to you are those that mark the closing phase of your last lunation cycle: **June 27, 1996 to April 24, 2000**. If you reflect on the experiences and mood of that time, you might recognize now that any losses or feelings of disinterest or withdrawal were actually the natural expression of the closing down of one phase of your life, and the psychic preparation for the next cycle. This may help you to better understand the current part of your cycle.

*your current lunation cycle: april 24, 2000 to october 28, 2029*

Your current cycle began on **April 24, 2000**, with the New Moon in your **Second House**. The progressing Moon will eventually travel all the way around your chart, drawing in experiences from all facets of your life, but this phase's inception in the Second House, gives added emphasis to **Second House** issues. Tangible and intangible resources, those ingredients that make up your self worth--including but not limited to your talents or how much money you make--these may in some way color the meaning of this cycle. But basically this house describes your values, what you value about yourself, how much you value yourself, and what you value in the outer world. This could place emphasis on your finances and material resources, feelings of self esteem, and/or force decisions whose resolution rest on your values.

Another clue that can sometimes illuminate the overall significance of a particular cycle is the Sabian Symbol for the astrological degree of your New Moon. Sabian Symbols were developed years ago by an astrologer working in conjunction with a psychic. Generally the images are rather cryptic, but if you allow your right brain to play with them, you can come up with some astonishing insights. The Sabian image for your New Moon is:

*Children blowing soap bubbles at a party.*

Use your intuitive, nonlogical right brain to meditate on this image. What feeling tone does it inspire? What is the general cultural symbolism of the elements of the



image? Add in your personal associations, for, just as with dreams, your own understanding of this picture will likely be more accurate and meaningful than anyone else's.

*Note: After you have deeply explored the connection between your natal birth phase and its monthly return (listed in this report as "your monthly lunar birthday"), you may want to add another practice based on this progressed cycle. Note which progressed Moon phase you're currently in. Meditate on its particular "style" of action and reflection. How can this help you with those issues or projects that are important to you now? Is there anything you need to change about how you habitually approach things? Particularly if this phase is different from your natal Moon phase, these years offer a special opportunity to enhance your own style and fulfill even more of your life potential. As you start to work with this progressed phase, those times of the month when this phase returns may be especially fruitful. Your ability to accept – and act creatively – within this new mode is greatly enhanced at this time. Many of my clients have reported great experiences during the monthly return of their progressed moon phase. (If you don't have a moon phase calendar, you can check for the proper moon phase at [under the section "Today's Moon."](#))*

*your new moon*



*april 24, 2000 to november 9, 2003*

*the seed germinates...*

These years represent the beginning of a major new cycle in your life. There's a release of new and highly creative energy inside you. You may not know just what it is you want to do, but you're definitely ready to do something. This is a spontaneous, impulsive, and exciting time. Life seems full of possibilities. Cultivate your enthusiasms and be open to new experiences now. Take chances. Dream. You may not know where it's all leading, but you need to go with the energy anyway, for it's the forward push that's necessary to launch the entire cycle. Not everything you do at this time will eventually prove fruitful, but in looking back at these years, you'll no doubt find that something significant was born. When Picasso painted the *Demoiselles de Avignon* during one of his New Moon phases, he couldn't have known he'd be creating Cubism a few years later--yet without that breakthrough painting, Cubism might not have been possible.

At the New Moon phase, there's a feeling of positive expectancy, as though your life were a beautifully wrapped gift just waiting to be opened. You don't know yet what's inside the box, but you feel excited, hopeful. Once you tear off the wrapping (in later phases of the cycle) your joy might be tempered a bit--you may have to make some adjustments, returning whatever it is for a better color or size, or needing to learn some new skills in order to use it. Such adjustments correspond to coming phases of this cycle. But for now, it's important you remain positive and receptive. Something is calling you into action--it's your future life!

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At the New Moon each month, the Moon is "invisible." Events that occur during this period may not, on the surface, seem particularly life-changing or outstanding. But if you look carefully at this time, you may be able to identify the beginnings of an important trend.

## your crescent phase



*november 9, 2003 to april 20, 2007*

*the growing seed presses against its shell...*

Your new life direction begins to stabilize. As in the initial seconds when a photograph is floating back and forth in the developing tray, you begin to see the dim outline of form, a few shapes. You may not have an understanding of the full picture yet, but your awareness and sense of focus builds. This is a time for gathering information, outlining a plan. Often at the Crescent you have a stronger idea of what it is you're growing away from, rather than what it is you're growing to. These are the years you struggle against the pull of the past. You're called to break free of something now.

The Crescent is a time of challenge. As the urge to move forward grows stronger, you meet resistance, like the germinating seed as it pushes against its old shell. The hull of the seed symbolizes old habits, either your own, or those old ideas of you that the people in your life want to hold you to. You may be struggling against outmoded cultural conditioning or outdated personal fears. The ghosts of the past come in many forms. Faith and courage are important now, because it's likely you won't have much external evidence or support for whatever dream you're building. The greatest challenge at the Crescent Phase is to recognize your opportunities, and in spite of any internal conflict or external resistance, grow. Giving in to the ghosts of the past now can have a negative effect on later phases of this cycle.

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The brave sliver of Crescent Moon appearing briefly in the Western sky is an emblem for new growth. There is still more dark than light on the face of the Moon, as though the dark were threatening to swallow the promise of the new. Does anything conspire to hold you back now? Is there anything you need to let go of? A new opportunity may reveal itself around **January 2005**.

## your first quarter



*april 20, 2007 to september 27, 2010*

the seed sends down roots, the stem thrusts upward...

It's time to commit more fully to the new direction. In some way you need to anchor the forward movement and give it a good foundation. Decisions made at this time are critical. Just as an error made in laying the foundation of a building can later undermine the whole structure, so decisions made at this time can have an effect on what is revealed at later stages in the cycle. Whenever you make a commitment to something, however, whether it's to a relationship, a new course of training, even a new idea that may eventually become an actual project, there are always plenty of unknowns. Such is the nature of commitment. You need to choose carefully now, even though much of the future vision will still be cloaked in darkness. Listen for the inner voices calling you to grow, while weeding out those voices calling you to take the safer, easier way out. If any of the old ghosts are still clinging, shake them loose!

You may face a crisis at this phase. Your conviction is likely to be tested--just as the plant is tested by the earth when its stem gropes upward for the light. If the young plant isn't strong enough, its first leaves cannot break the surface. Courage and confidence are required to face the challenges at this time. Whether resistance comes from the people or circumstances around you, you're meant to cut through any obstacles facing you now. It's time to become more aggressive, to make what you want to happen, happen.

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At the Quarter Moon, there is an equal amount of light and dark on the face of the Moon. Both the past and the future have an equal pull. The obstacles facing you may call for dramatic and decisive action. Or they may be more subtle, resulting in an accumulation of inner choices and behaviors that determine where you go. In **August 2009** there may be one opportunity in particular that challenges you to commit.

## your gibbous phase



*september 27, 2010 to april 8, 2014*

branching leaves reach out and meet the world...

This could be a time of great activity. A lot depends on decisions made during the First Quarter. Often the Gibbous Phase is a period of refinement or adjustment. All of the phases during this first part of the cycle from New Moon to Full demand some sort of action; these are building years. Each phase of the building cycle has its tests and trials. Your work now may bring you into contact with others who may or may not respond positively to your efforts. You may be forced to re-sort your priorities or re-think a particular element of your dream. You may decide you need more training, or may want to consult with someone whose greater experience will help in fine-tuning your plan. Analyze your situation carefully at the Gibbous Moon, then press forward!

Many clients in the Gibbous phase tell me they feel a bit empty or restless. They wonder if they should give up what they're currently doing and embark on something entirely new. Of course throwing it all up in the air and letting it fall into some new and hopefully more exciting pattern can sound like fun, especially if you're feeling frustrated or discontent. But generally, during the Gibbous phase it is more important to stay the course. Over the past few years, you've been exploring your interests, gathering new skills, and have likely developed some credibility and expertise. Now is the time to take all of that to a higher level. You have a dream for your life... and in the Full Moon that dream will be realized in some form, based on what you do about it now.

Like a growing plant struggling for space in its environment and interacting with the climactic givens, you need to strike a balance between perseverance and flexibility. A plant that's too rigid will split in a harsh wind, yet one that's too pliable can easily be crushed by someone walking by. Pay attention to the forces acting against you and determine your best response. Attend to the details of your vision, and try not to stray from your path. As Teilhard de Chardin wrote, "To stop believing a second too soon, or not to believe enough, is sufficient to ruin the whole structure of what we are building."

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The Moon is more light than dark now; you can see more of what you've been building. Where are you called into effort during this cycle? Tests or tensions around **November 2011** may highlight adjustments that need to be made.

your full moon



*april 8, 2014 to january 31, 2018*

the plant flowers...

At the Full Moon, the results of your development over the past fourteen years are revealed. This is a time of fulfillment or failure; you will reap what you have sown. You might be receiving rewards and accolades now, or simply enjoying the satisfaction of having achieved what you set out to do. Or, this could be a time when you're plagued with a sense of incompleteness, of having somehow fallen short or missed the mark. Actually, the terms "fulfillment" and "failure" are inappropriate as they're too laden with judgement. The Full Moon report card is not meant to judge you or your worth, but rather to provide you with information on where to go from here. The next half of this cycle will be built on learning from your experiences in the first half; any so-called "failures" can be turned around now with tremendous success.

This is the mid-point of the entire cycle; it represents a major turning point. At the Full Moon it's time to take stock. Even seeming defeats can ultimately be positive once properly understood. Wagner, one of Europe's greatest composers produced a "flop" at his Full Moon phase. It was his first opera; history shows he learned from the experience! Objectivity, detachment and acceptance will help you get the most from this time. Even if your results are positive, detachment is important now, for the next half of the cycle will ask you to eventually let go of some of what you've built, in order to make room for the next period of new growth.

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The Full Moon is the time of greatest light. Illumination is a key word for this phase. Your awareness is strong now; you can see things clearly. Where are you at this time in your life? What have you learned from your experiences over the past few years? What is most important to you now? Tensions around **October 2016** may illuminate some of the significant issues of this cycle.

## your disseminating phase



*january 31, 2018 to march 18, 2022*

the flower releases its pollen...

It's time to share what you learned at the Full Moon. The Disseminating phase is the teaching phase. Like a flower releasing its pollen so fellow plants will be fertilized, spreading the word about what you've learned can facilitate growth in those around you. This does not necessarily mean preaching to others, however; sometimes the best demonstration is simply behaving in a new way. Actions can speak louder than words. Either way, it's important not to isolate yourself from people or to withdraw from opportunities for positive influence. Interact with others now, for in giving away the best of what you've learned, you will also receive further understanding that will help guide you through the rest of the cycle.

Actress Carrie Fisher faced her alcohol and drug addictions during her Full Moon phase. She wrote about her experience at the Disseminating Moon, producing a best selling novel which later became a successful movie. You may or may not be blessed with as wide an audience as Carrie Fisher, but in some way the world will be receptive to your message now. In whatever way most suits you, spread the word. This can be a time of tremendous productivity. If your results at the Full Moon were somewhat disappointing, this can also be a time to aggressively turn things around.

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The light on the face of the Moon begins to wane. There's a corresponding maturity at the waning Moon, a sense of having learned from experience. The Disseminating years represent a time of wisdom. This is not a time to withdraw, but to give to the world. Especially around **June 2019** you may be presented with an opportunity to vigorously promote, express or somehow demonstrate whatever you most believe in.

your last quarter



*march 18, 2022 to march 21, 2026*

the flower withers, the fruit forms...

It's time to let go of old attachments and begin the process of opening to a new vision. Those things that used to excite you, may lose their magnetism now. Certain aspects of your life may feel more and more meaningless. This is a necessary falling away, however, so that energy can be pulled back, and re-focused for the next cycle. The withering of the flower signals the birth of the fruit. That's also important now... pay attention to new enthusiasms and inspirations. These are signs, pointing the way to your new future. Many people start turning in new directions at this time.

While the first half of the lunar cycle called for actively building new structures into your life, this second half is about the development of understanding--your search for meaning. While the First Quarter Moon may have signaled some kind of crisis in action, likely from encountering external resistance, this Last Quarter Moon often signals a crisis in consciousness. Your beliefs may need to undergo revision now. Resistance at this phase may be more internal than external. But whatever changes are occurring now are ultimately destined to renew you. Distill what's most important from the past. Reverse your focus if you need to. But find a philosophy you can believe in. This is the time to develop your faith and stand squarely for what you believe.

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At the Last Quarter, the Moon is briefly poised at a moment of equal light and dark, after which the dark predominates. Your faith is the inner light that will sustain you until the next New Moon. What beliefs are most meaningful to you now? What do you need to let go of during this period? Around **December 2024** something new may come into your life, possibly giving you a glimpse of the next cycle.



## your balsamic phase



*march 21, 2026 to october 28, 2029*

the fruit decays, releasing its seeds for the next generation...

This may be the richest phase in the entire cycle, though initially it may feel somewhat uncomfortable. Modern life universally demands action, progress, forward movement--yet the Balsamic phase is a time of inaction, of withdrawal, of letting go. You are in the final phase of shifting gears from the old cycle to the new one that is quietly building. Going within now and minimizing external demands can be a powerful way of gathering strength for the next New Moon, like the downward bend that increases the momentum of any forward leap. But this does not mean you have to hang in suspended animation. Feel the pleasure of the present moment. Observe the details and sensations you may have missed before. Release what doesn't serve you. Follow your inner light, for on the inner plane, you are intensely alive, gathering nutrients that are redesigning your energetic body in new ways. This is an ideal time for introspection and reflection, through journal writing, artistic expression, or meditation. You might be quite wise or visionary now, like the seed, which both condenses the experience of the old plant and holds the vision of the new plant to come. The Balsamic phase deepens your intuitive resources, but don't be surprised if your intuition begins to express via new forms. If your third eye has always told you which way to turn, now your solar plexus may want to do the directing.

The Balsamic is actually my favorite moon phase. This period is only difficult if you go against its current, if you try to hang onto things you need to let go of, or if you refuse to stop, smell overlooked roses, and slow down. Sometimes the refusal to rest culminates in an accident or illness that forces a Balsamic individual to temporarily go inward. If this occurs, know it is in your highest good, and you will get moving again during these years, but on new and improved terms. This is the Wisdom Moon, bringing you closer to the source of all knowledge. Modern life works to sever us from this wisdom of nature, which is why non-stop action leads to unnatural stress. Take care of business, but give yourself special times where you do nothing but rest, like a leisurely, fallow field, so your new growth will be strong. Trust in the natural, cyclic flow--death is always followed by another birth, winter always followed by another spring.

The Moon is dark at the Balsamic phase. This time may feel vaguely like a period of mourning. In a way you are grieving, the loss of the "old" you, unsure what the new you will bring--or even if there will be a new you at all! Picasso entered his "Blue Period" during one Balsamic Phase and stopped painting altogether in another. What things do you need to call a halt to now? How do you get closer to your center? What flashes of the future do you see?

*Since this lunar phase corresponds to your natal lunar phase, events during these years are likely to be especially significant.*

**your previous lunation cycle began: october 4, 1970**

*in the First House of Attitude, Persona, and Beginnings.  
the Sabian image: An ornamental handkerchief.*

**dates for your previous cycle:**

*new moon: october 4, 1970 to july 2, 1974*

*crescent moon: july 2, 1974 to january 13, 1978*

*first quarter moon: january 13, 1978 to june 3, 1981*

*gibbous moon: june 3, 1981 to october 12, 1984*

*full moon: october 12, 1984 to may 15, 1988*

*disseminating moon: may 15, 1988 to may 14, 1992*

*last quarter moon: may 14, 1992 to june 27, 1996*

*balsamic moon: june 27, 1996 to april 24, 2000*

\* I'm indebted to the work of Dane Rudhyar and his wife Lael for my understanding of the lunation cycle and for some of the examples I've used in this report. See [\*The Lunation Cycle\*](#) (Aurora, 1967). The text and interpretations for the Sabian symbols can be found in Rudhyar's [\*An Astrological Mandala\*](#) (Vintage Books, 1974) and Marc Edmund Jones' [\*The Sabian Symbols in Astrology\*](#) (Aurora Press, 1993).

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