

your inner moonscape

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 **Leo**. 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 **Cancer**, 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.

cancer moon

The Moon was in Cancer the day you were born, a sensitive, empathic, and deeply emotional 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 Cancer Moon's greatest need is for a supportive and nurturing environment that allows you to feel safe and secure. You relish the comforts of home, and the safety that comes from having loved and familiar things or people around you. Cancers are "nesters" and the condition of your nest is important. Cancer is one of the water signs, which also means that navigating through the world of emotions is a priority for you. You may invest considerable energy into yours and others' feelings.

All babies need warm and protective nurturing from their caretakers, but this is especially true for Cancer Moons. If your upbringing did not provide a sound and loving foundation, you may find that you're still subconsciously seeking that in later years. This could lead to some less than healthy behaviors, like eating addictions,

being overly dependent on others, or, on the reverse side of the coin, encouraging others to be overly dependent on you, as a way to feel needed. You might also find you go through dark and moody periods, or have a tendency to feel sorry for yourself. Or you might tend to expect too much from those around you, or rely on helplessness as a way to get what you need from others. But if you understand that any of these behaviors are actually just expressions of the needy child inside of you, you'll be well on the way towards achieving emotional balance. Learn to nurture that inner child first, and you'll eventually find that comfort and safety you've long been hungering for.

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. To isolate the feelings of your Cancer Moon from your Leo Sun, think of "where you go" inside when life gets too difficult. Think of your instinctive emotional reactions, especially when you're feeling threatened. That's your Cancer Moon at work. For each of us, the Moon represents our emotional security blanket of comfortable habits and responses. The symbol for Cancer is the crab, and like the crab, you might react to difficult situations by withdrawing into your shell, or by holding on too tight with your pincers. Either reaction represents the Cancer extreme; but if you take care of your lunar needs from the beginning, you won't have to wind up there. With Cancer it's imperative that you keep in constant contact with your own feelings and needs. Listen to yourself and be willing to serve your own needs first, before you throw yourself into someone else, in hopes that they'll take care of the child inside you.

When you master your own sensitive, emotional nature, you can enjoy the considerable gifts of this Cancer Moon. This is a very psychic and empathic position for the Moon. You know what others are feeling even before they do themselves! This is an excellent position for a counselor or a healer. You have an innate capacity to be quite nurturing, loving and sympathetic. Cancer is the archetypal mother. You know how to make this planet a warm and homey place. Without Cancer Moons, this would be a much harsher, colder world indeed!

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 **waning conjunction to Mars** -- which can energize your emotions, intensify your ambition and anger, and at times complicate the issue of lunar nurturing. The proximity of these planets suggests a blending, perhaps even confusion between two sides to your nature, one that is sensitive, needy and supportive, and the other, like the hunter or warrior, who enjoys solitude, independence, and the hunt. Moon/Mars individuals may sometimes have difficulty expressing one or the other: their warrior energy or sensitive nurturer. A strong influence from your childhood may have taught you to repress your desires and drive, 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. Since this is a waning aspect (with your Moon behind Mars, approaching their conjunction), the suggestion is that you're releasing old patterns of aggression that you've developed in prior lifetimes (and perhaps have repeated this lifetime); you are ready now to give birth to a new understanding. On the path towards integration, you might find that you tend to attract women who are independent, strong and possibly combative.

Your natal Moon is also in a **waning 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. This is a waning square, which asks you to realign your instinctive emotional reactions to a higher spiritual purpose. What seems confusing emotionally may actually just need to be simplified along spiritual lines. This kind of psychic cleansing can bring inspiration to others, but ultimately will be most healing for you.

Your Moon's **square to the Moon's Nodes** adds yet another layer to your emotional experience this lifetime. Since the Nodes represent areas of experience

that may be new territory for the soul (North Node) as well as old talents and fears (South Node), planets in square to this part of the chart will activate the opposition between these two sides to your nature (see next section for more). The square to the Moon suggests your emotional, intuitive nature may be the best doorway to your soul's development. But you might also need to guard against the changeability of the Moon distracting you from your path. Initially you might avoid those experiences that in the long run will bring you what you're looking for. Enter into your emotions as a profound teaching; reject nothing, take each difficult experience as a learning to strengthen and develop your mind.

Moon Lover: I only like to explore the tension aspects of the Moon, because that's where all the action is! The more flowing and harmonious aspects of trines and sextiles (like your sextile to Mercury) do have an expression and some implications, but they've always seemed much softer and less interesting than the hard aspects. They may or may not have a noticeable effect, so I'm never sure what to say about them!

eighth 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 Eighth House Moon brings tremendous psychic and psychological sensitivity to your nature. Learn to trust and develop your intuition with this placement, because chances are whatever your gut instinct tells you will be right on the mark. Many mediums have this Moon, for it increases the ability to contact "the other side" if one so chooses. On a more mundane level, this Moon puts added focus on financial matters, and makes shared financial resources a particularly important issue. Money is just one emblem for the energy exchanged between people. The real issue here is the intimacy and vulnerability of letting down your guard and sharing energy with another -- financially or sexually. Your trust will likely come slowly and there may be a few power struggles along the way. There can be periods of great emotional intensity with this lunar placement -- this is a Moon that feels deeply. But early experiences of vulnerability may have taught you to protect this side of yourself and keep it hidden. So the intimacy you crave may also be the experience you fear! This Moon can carry a lot of psychological issues from the past, from this life and other lifetimes, so working through the "stuck" places is very important. This can be the lifetime you eventually let go of a lot of negative emotional baggage.

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. The Eighth House is a transformational house, but the Moon is innately a security seeker -- so this placement is something of an astrological oxymoron! You will crave both change and stability with this Moon -- which is why you might find yourself periodically acting from the extreme ends of either side of this polarity. You may unconsciously seek intense experiences that will eventually force an emotional clearing. But getting conscious about this process, through increased psychological awareness, may be a less traumatic way to engineer the changes you desire. In the long run, your familiarity with the emotional underworld of the Eighth House can make you a very effective counselor for others on their emotional journeys.

your moon's other house

I have calculated your chart using the Koch house system; but many astrologers also use the Placidus house system. In the Placidus chart, your Moon actually appears in the **Seventh**. So which house system is right? My experience is that all house systems are rather imperfect constructions, so with those planets that straddle the cusp of two different houses, I think it's wise to try on the meanings of both houses and see which resonates most for you. You may find that there are aspects of both houses you can relate to as being emotionally important.

*Your **Seventh House Moon** makes your close relationships an especially important component of your life. You may feel your moods swing up and down with the vicissitudes of your primary relationships -- your marriage partner and/or your business partners. Since people are so important, this can sometimes feel like a dependent or needy Moon, but your real desire is for a relationship between equals, with mutual give and take. As a Seventh House Moon you're probably a very nurturing person, but remember you need nurturing too, and will thrive best in a relationship that comfortably allows you to swing back and forth between these roles. Your Mother may have had a strong impact on your approach to relationships today, which can be either positive or negative, depending on the kind of role model she provided. This is an angular Moon, which makes it a strong lunar placement; your emotional nature is a powerful driving force behind your personality.*

Since the Seventh House is the house of "the other," it sometimes happens that planets here are easily projected onto others before they are owned and integrated in your personality. With this Moon placement, it may be possible that there are certain parts of your nature that are "invisible" to you, that you expect to get from your partners, rather than expressing them yourself. In fact, as you've read some

of the lunar descriptions in this report, you may have felt they weren't true about you, but did describe the kind of people you've tended to attract in your life. The eventual discovery of these projected aspects of your nature as part of you can be very exciting and liberating.

compatibility: cancer 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 **Cancer** 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 **Cancer** Moon, or another water sign like **Scorpio** or **Pisces**. If you want to be challenged or taken beyond yourself, look for a **Capricorn**, **Aries** or a **Libra**. If you want a different perspective which, with a little work, can fit quite smoothly alongside your own, look for a **Virgo** or a **Taurus** Moon. **Sagittarius** or **Aquarius** 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 Eighth House Cancer 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.