

the evolving moon

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 **Gemini** in the **Seventh House**.

To correlate this movement with your own experience, try tracking any internal shifts against the following dates: The Moon entered Gemini on October 8, 2000 and will leave March 21, 2003. It entered the Seventh house on November 14, 2001 and will leave January 23, 2004.

With the Moon in **Gemini**, it's time to let your curiosity take the lead. Life has become a schoolyard again; in some way your heart yearns for the adventure of learning. With fresh and inquisitive eyes, go about exploring whatever corner of the world you find yourself in. This is a generally busy and more sociable Moon. Find outlets for your active mind. These years could be restless ones, but it might help to realize you're just in information-gathering mode. Some might accuse you of being fickle and inconsistent; but, on the other side of the coin, you might be more flexible and easygoing too. With both mind and body in motion, it's possible to shift out of synch with your feelings. You can wait till the Moon enters Cancer to catch up with your inner self, but beware -- your body could be absorbing a lot of the stress without your mind realizing it. Review your journal entries to see if you're talking a good game, but feeling differently underneath.

The Moon in the **Seventh House** suggests you may be changing your ideas about relationships, romantic and otherwise. You could be seeing the people in your life with new eyes – though your significant others might say you've just grown more sensitive and irritable. But you're seriously wondering about this whole business of relating. It might especially matter that things between you and partners be equal and fair. This could shed light not just on what you're getting from significant others, but what you're giving as well. People sometimes feel the urge to leave their current relationships with the Moon here – this progression has a reputation for separations. But it doesn't have to be so. The real need may be to revise your understanding of the relationship, and perhaps take it to a new level of trust, appreciation and meaning. Commitments can be renewed now, but fantasizing about the ideal relationship, or comparing your partner to someone else will likely create more difficulties than it solves.

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 closing half of your current cycle, many of the dates listed are for prior years. One of 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.

You may also be interested in looking at the closing period of your previous lunation cycle: **December 21, 1978 to March 29, 1982**. 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: march 29, 1982 to august 13, 2011

Your current cycle began on **March 29, 1982**, with the New Moon in your **Tenth 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 Tenth House, gives added emphasis to **Tenth House** issues. Your career, reputation and status in the world, as well as your relationships with parents and authority figures, may each in some way color the meaning of this cycle. Circumstances and events may inspire (or conspire!) you to take new authority over your life, developing your most reliable leadership from within.

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:

Totally intent on the task at hand, a man is immune to distraction.

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 www.mooncircles.com under the section "Today's Moon.")

your new moon

march 29, 1982 to june 13, 1985

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 *Demaiselles 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!

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

June 13, 1985 to November 27, 1988

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.

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 **July 1986**.

your first quarter

november 27, 1988 to september 28, 1992

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.

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 **June 1991** there may be one opportunity in particular that challenges you to commit.

your gibbous phase

september 28, 1992 to november 5, 1996

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!

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."

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 **February 1994** may highlight adjustments that need to be made.

your full moon

november 5, 1996 to december 26, 2000

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.

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 **August 1999** may illuminate some of the significant issues of this cycle.

your disseminating phase

december 26, 2000 to november 23, 2004

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.

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 **April 2002** you may be presented with an opportunity to vigorously promote, express or somehow demonstrate whatever you most believe in.

your last quarter

november 23, 2004 to may 27, 2008

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.

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.

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 **April 2007** something new may come into your life, possibly giving you a glimpse of the next cycle.

your balsamic phase

may 27, 2008 to august 13, 2011

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

This may be the richest phase in the entire cycle, though few move into it comfortably. Modern life seems to universally demand 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. Release what doesn't serve you anymore. Let your inner light guide you now. This is a good time for inner work, journal writing 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 period is only difficult if you try to go against its current, if you try to hang onto things you need to let go of, or if you refuse to rest and slow down. Sometimes the refusal to rest is met by an accident or illness that forces you to withdraw. If this occurs, know it is in your greatest good. Modern life has severed us from the wisdom of cycles. Ceaseless action leads to stress and heart attacks. Rest, like a fallow field, so the 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 next lunation cycle begins: august 13, 2011

in the Eleventh House of Friends and Society, New Visions and Change.

the Sabian image: A man is aware of spiritual forces surrounding and assisting him.

dates for your next cycle:

new moon: august 13, 2011 to november 7, 2014

crescent moon: november 7, 2014 to june 9, 2018

first quarter moon: june 9, 2018 to june 12, 2022

gibbous moon: june 12, 2022 to august 10, 2026

full moon: august 10, 2026 to august 19, 2030

disseminating moon: august 19, 2030 to may 20, 2034

last quarter moon: may 20, 2034 to october 23, 2037

balsamic moon: october 23, 2037 to january 14, 2041

* 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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