

Your New Moon Beginning

Saturday October 21 at 11:14 pm MDT
28 Libra 40



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

“**Koyaanisqatsi**” is a Hopi word for “life out of balance.” Living outside of nature’s rhythms is so normal in our culture, we don’t even have a word for it. But feeling “stressed out” or like we don’t have “enough time” may be our way of getting at the same thing. At the Fall Equinox, when the Sun entered Libra (just after last month’s New Moon), daylight and nighttime hours were brought into equal balance. The Sun will enter Scorpio shortly after this cycle begins, but the seed for this cycle being in Libra suggests this is an optimum time to re-balance one or more areas of your life.

The Libra New Moon highlights **your 6th House of health and daily work routines—also service, co-workers, servants and pets.** Since Libra rules relationship, when the Sun reaches this house, you may need an “other” —with whom to practice generosity, charming speech, and the high art of listening well. By honoring others you refine your personality, becoming more poised and graceful, more capable of creating **harmony** in the world. Springtime favors self-assertion and discovery. In Fall we recognize we’ll need others to make it through the winter. Always in affairs of this house, you’re meant to be an agent of **beauty**—to invoke and embody the goddess Venus in your actions. Despite Libra’s emphasis on relationship, it’s important to note that it’s the only sign with an inanimate object as its symbol. The implication is that abstract concepts—justice, balance, artistic aesthetics—are actually its guiding light. Libra is an air sign. **Your success here depends on mental clarity.** You must consider and weigh the many sides of any issue in this house. You must learn to include the needs of others—and balance them against your own. **This may be an area of life where you frequently find yourself out of balance**—in situations that seem unjust or disharmonious. Perhaps that’s because nothing is more motivating to establish balance than disequilibrium. If you routinely encounter conflicts with others here, you have to ask yourself why you keep attracting them. This house (along with your natal 7th if it’s in a different sign) works with mirrors. Whoever steps into this territory may be reflecting something about you through their actions.

Sometimes the impulse to “get organized” is stirred when the New Moon energizes the **6th House**. Clear out the vitamin drawer or medicine cabinet, toss what has expired, straighten and organize what’s still useful. How energized you’ll be if you do the same with your work space. Clear your desk, vacuum in the corners; the room will suddenly sing with new vitality, becoming the perfect stage on which to display your competence. That’s important now. This is the month to remember what you like about what you do, to celebrate your skills, and to recognize the ways in which you keep improving. The sign of this New Moon describes a basic need you have from your daily work. If it’s not getting fulfilled, what can you do to change this? Your satisfaction with your day-to-day efforts has a lot to do with the state of your health. Taking better care of your physical well-being or adding something new to increase your vitality are fine strategies for this cycle. Co-workers, pets, and/or servants (people who do work for you, like the cable guy) may also be important.



What's Really Fair?

We got called into the child counselor's office. Our five-year-old took all the classroom horses at recess and wouldn't let anyone else play with them. She'd given them names, she knew how they liked to run, and nobody else could touch them. Two others who wanted to play ran to the teacher. In that gentle, developmentally correct language grammar school teachers now use, the teacher said "It looks like the three of you need to find a new solution." Our five-year-old magnanimously granted one horse to the others, keeping seven for herself. "Are you happy with that?" No, the two shook their heads. Everyone was quiet. Then our girl gave up three more horses: four for her, four for the two of them. Are you happy with that? Sensing that recess was nearing its end, the two nodded "Yes" and ran to the playground. **It wasn't fair – but it worked.** And sometimes, for Libra to work, we too must relax our notion of what's fair. Does everyone feel good about it? Then it's fair enough. **This Libra cycle may ask you to reconsider a current situation and somehow make it more equitable.** When honoring others, are you being fair to yourself? In respecting yourself, are you acknowledging the needs of the whole situation?



Using the New Moon to plant your dreams...

Step One: Acknowledge your current concerns

If the Moon's cycle is at all meaningful, it has to be found in the life you're already leading. So for the moment, before you think about any New Moon dreams, **write down all the things that matter most to you right now.** If you haven't started a Moon Journal yet, this can be your first entry for this cycle. Take stock. What important events are coming up? What are you excited about? Is anything troubling you? What is most challenging for you right now? List all your current concerns. Take an honest inventory for this will help to ground you. Can you see a relationship between your concerns and the sign or house of this New Moon?

Step Two: Visualize success

Having focused on your present, what would you like to happen with each concern? Let your mind wander out into future and **visualize the best outcome in all the matters before you.** Notice your breathing as you do this. If a particular situation makes you tense and short-breathed, stay with it patiently, until you can see the outcome you desire while breathing comfortably. Your positive visualizations "stretch" your third eye in a way that invites assistance. For once you dream the best it is natural to wonder, "How can this come true?" Keep asking this question gently, with enthusiasm rather than skepticism. This is how you call forth inspiration and divine assistance.

Step Three: Commit to concrete goals

You've done the important preparation—grounding into your current concerns, then opening your third eye toward new possibilities. You're now properly energized. It's time to declare intentions that are both inspiring and realistic. **Devise a manageable set of goals.** I like to wait until the Crescent Moon to write my intentions. That's because the energy at the New Moon, while fresh and exciting, is also a bit unstable. It is easy to intend something on the day of the New Moon and



forget it 24 hours later! But if you plant your dreams with greater care, using these three steps, your ability to achieve your goals increases dramatically.

The Solar Ingress: Scorpio Season

Sun enters Scorpio: Monday October 23 at 7:26 am MDT

At the top of the world, high above the clouds, twelve spirits sit around a campfire, arguing good-naturedly about which season is best... each awaiting their turn to take the stage...



Scorpio once did something so awful, the villagers dragged her to the cliff and threw her into the sea, where fish ate her flesh and crabs nibbled at her eyes. Her skeleton churned in the currents for eons, until one day, a fisherman, thinking he had just won a great catch, tugged her to the edge of his kayak, where her long teeth grabbed hold. He screamed in terror. He paddled as fast as he could to the shore... but, tangled in his nets, Scorpio's skeleton rose to her toes, as though she were chasing him. Bumpity-bump, she followed him across the sand, over the rocks, into his very cabin, where she fell in a tumble, knee in mouth, foot in rib cage. Heart-pounding, the fisherman couldn't move. But eventually --Was it the soft whale light? Was it his own loneliness?--the fisherman was overwhelmed with compassion. Tenderly, he untangled her. Soft tears fell from his eyes. Scorpio awoke, feeling sooo thirsty. She drank his tears. Her body began to fill with supple flesh, her heart began to drum. "Don't be afraid of change," she sang. "Death and Birth are lovers, and Change is their beautiful daughter." She embraced the fisherman. So comforted, he fell asleep in her arms.

The Work of the Season

The work of the second month of autumn is **transformation**. Like fall leaves turning color, something within us asks "How can I change?" Resentments may tangle our feet, fears jump from the closet, desires flush to the surface. To be happier, more successful, we must be willing to dive to the hidden roots of things. Six months ago, in Taurus, our task was to sustain ourselves, to gather new resources. **Now we must eliminate, letting go of what has gone rotten, or simply outlived its usefulness.** Just as the trees shed their leaves, we too must release old growth from earlier seasons. We must go inward and pare down to essence. This may mean looking at--being with--something we've been afraid to see. Yet the rewards--new power, a new birth--are great. Regeneration is always Scorpio's gift.

Letting Go

As a fixed sign, Scorpio helps us hold and develop whatever new awarenesses we've achieved in Libra. **It also tests our attachments, clarifying what needs eliminating.** During a Scorpio season years ago, I discovered just how powerful Scorpio's purges can be. I was at the tail end of a difficult divorce, and one of the last gifts my husband had given me--a little desk terrarium--was inadvertently damaged by a co-worker. I collapsed into such grief and rage, even I was shocked. Wasn't I done with this yet? After so many months of anger, loneliness and tears, part of me was still holding on to the marriage. The next



day, with a supportive friend as witness, I performed a ritual of letting go: I threw my ex-husband's last gift into the parking lot dumpster. **From such small acts of release, our lives transform.** The next day was startling: I met somebody new. I fell in love! I met the man who five years later would father my son. Room for new futures is made whenever we let go. Each month, the waning Moon invites us to clear space and release energy-draining attachments. But this work is especially significant during Scorpio's season. As the days shorten, the air cools, and the geese fly south; as we take ourselves indoors, wrap up in warmer clothes and eat heartier foods, let us also go willingly into nature's plan—a journey inward to renew our souls, clearing space for new creations.



Your Personal Season

Zero degrees of Scorpio brings the Sun to your **6th house**. The Sun has traveled nearly halfway around your chart since crossing the Ascendant. You're just about halfway through this year's growth cycle. What should you expect to see? Look for **a sign** this month that your work is beginning to take productive form, as when a tree begins to bud and blossom. When the fruit trees in the orchards around my house start blossoming, this represents their commitment to the harvest that will come months later. Your commitment to your future harvest should also be showing now. Six months ago, when the Sun was in your 12th house, the seeds of this harvest were germinating; your dreams were taking root deep in your subconscious. Now, the **energy spirals outward**—through your work, you're making your inner vision visible in the outer world. This is a time to take your dreams and your developing skill quite seriously, for you're entering **a five-month period of hard work**, high energy, and great productivity.

One of the keys to success at this time is to take care of your health. You want to be at your best in the coming months, so any **weaknesses in the physical system may be tested** now. If you've been thinking you need to cut back on excesses, exercise what has grown flabby, or replenish what needs replenishing, this is an excellent time to commit. How you approach your daily responsibilities is up for annual attention. Are you moving in balance—with the right amount of effort and rest? Are you working efficiently, or leaking energy into less important concerns?

You're bringing yourself into equilibrium and harmony this month as you **prepare to enter the relationship quadrant**. Other people will become increasingly important to your success in the coming months. So this is the time when you begin to turn your thoughts to what others need from you—which is why astrologers call the 6th a "**service**" house. What you give out now, with a generous heart, you'll get back ten-fold.

On **November 10** the Sun enters your **7th House**. This is the house of significant others. It is normal to start reviewing your close relationships and measuring your satisfaction with them at this time of year. But the deeper need may be to review *your* relationship style. In the 7th you may actually feel quite



vulnerable, for here you're expected to open yourself to others who likely have competing interests and needs, not to mention different astrological timing. Robert Cole*, who developed the harvest imagery I like to draw on for the Sun's transits through the houses, designates the day that the Sun enters your 7th house as "**Sharing Day**." According to Cole, this is a day when it's wise to recognize the important people in your life, how much you need them, and how much their perspectives can help you. Open yourself up to someone. Ask a friend for feedback about your life or future plans. This is an excellent day for commitments and formal agreements.

* See Robert Cole and Paul Williams, *The Book of Houses: An Astrological Guide to the Harvest Cycle in Human Life* (Entwhistle Books, 1980).



Samhein

October 31 and November 1, **Halloween** and **All Saints Day**, are two culturally sanctioned celebrations of an ancient pagan holiday, "**Samhein**," (pronounced "sow-wain"). Calendar holidays are often out of synch with their celestial markers. The true Samhein arrives when the Scorpio Sun reaches 15 degrees—on **November 7**. This moment represents one of the year's four "cross quarters," marked by the Sun reaching the middle degree of a fixed sign.

Samhein marks the day **the Celtic New Year begins**. Why do different cultures pick different days to begin their New Year? The year is a circle; therefore, we could designate any day as the first day of a new year. When the wheel of time cycles back to that day, whatever the date, whatever the culture, we will go through the same rituals, somehow releasing the old, clearing a space for the new, and dreaming of what is to come. The Northern-living Celts knew at Samhein that the harsh winters were coming, so they routinely thinned their herds at this time, slaughtering the old and weaker animals who wouldn't survive the coming months. And of course, by salting and preserving the meat, this helped the community itself to survive. Modern-day Wiccans have adapted this practice to a more internal one, seeing this as a time to **rid oneself of weakness**. They will write down their own weaknesses on a piece of parchment and cast this into a ritual fire. It is a way of thinning the herd of thoughts and ambitions that, if kept alive, will drain and distract them from their winter work.

Witches believe that at Samhein, **the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest**, so the departed, especially those recently departed, can easily go back and forth between the two worlds. Food was left as an offering to one's ancestors (this is where Halloween's "Trick or Treat" tradition comes from). Those who feared meeting one of these ghosts on the road would frighten them away by carrying a pumpkin carved with a menacing face and lit by a candle (and that's where the jack-o'-lantern tradition comes from!).

This cycle, Samhein comes during the Full Moon. If a departed soul has been on your mind lately, you may want to spend the Samhein night **conversing with this spirit**. Invite this person into your meditation. Say what you've been meaning to tell, what you wished you'd told them when they were alive. Ask an important question. Let yourself write down the answer without knowing who is doing the writing. Samhein night is also a time for **divination**. When the veil is thin, we can also see into the world of the future. Pagans would often scry into the fire, seeing answers and visions



in its flames. In your workbook for the Full Moon, I suggest using the I Ching oracle, but certainly you can use any form of divination effectively then.



Mercury will be retrograde from October 28 through November 17. Take care with all forms of communication... misunderstandings and unexpected screw-ups can occur! This is the natural nap time for the rational brain. Use it to re-work projects that need a fresh perspective.

