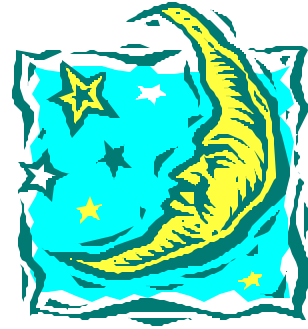


Lesson Twelve:

Moon Voids



At a cocktail party recently I overheard a not-at-all-New-Agey-nor-even-remotely-interested-in-astrology businessman explaining about Moon voids to a trio of beautiful women at the snack table. "I hope the Moon is right," he was saying, "because if it's not, we'll never see each other again." One of the women rolled her eyes and left the snack table, suggesting that perhaps it was indeed a bad Moon. But the remaining two were intrigued. "I just learned of this myself," he said. "Every 2-3 days the Moon does this thing which means that anything you do will at that time will go wrong, contracts, business deals, repairs. It's like falling into a black hole. Why didn't they teach us about this Moon in business school?!"

He was talking, of course, about Moon voids. Whenever Moon knowledge infiltrates the normal culture, I'm cheered. The downside, of course, is that it's always the most superstitious information that enters first: "During a void of course Moon don't initiate anything, buy anything, sign anything, contact anyone important -- nothing will come of it. Be wary of making decisions. Your judgment is faulty; any information you get will be wrong. Whatever you do will have to be done again." At best you're counseled to spend these hours adrift. Become a couch potato. Or if you must take action, clean your house. It's sure to get dirty again.

Life is filled with bad moments. If we hear that astrology can predict them, this gets our attention. But if you study the effects of Moon voids, you'll probably agree with astrologer Jenni Stone (who wrote about Moon voids in the October 2003 issue of *The Mountain Astrologer*). After a two-year long research project, Stone concluded that void Moons, though definitely a special time, were not consistently dire. **The belief that "nothing will come" of anything done during a void Moon derives from an ancient divination technique** (horary astrology) that casts a chart for the specific time someone asks a question, and then makes a prediction based on that chart. If you ask a question when the Moon is void, the horary prediction is that nothing will come of that matter. But originally, this divination had nothing do with activities undertaken during a void Moon.

A void is an opening, a gap, an empty space. It suggests a state of being without. **Astrologically, the Moon is void when in her current sign, she's without applying connections (or "aspects") to the other planets.** These gaps occur before the moon shifts into the next sign, and can last from a few minutes, to a few hours, to a couple of days, depending on the other planets' positions. If your horary question comes when the Moon is void, it's presumed you likewise lack connections. Without assistance from others, your project is likely to fail. But transferring this technique into real Moon time loses the original context. Everyone is thrown onto the same celestial assembly line – invisibly passing through good and bad times at once. By this logic, every one of a hundred thousand letters mailed during a void-of-course moon will fly from the postman's hands and disappear under the sewer grate. All contracts signed, everything bought will be bad. If this were really true, then I suspect they *would* teach classes in void-of-course Moons at business schools!



From my experience, not all void Moons are created equal. I like the way Jenni Stone puts it: During void Moons “we float between signs.” We do seem to float, although the quality of the air we’re drifting in can vary. So far, **I’ve discerned at least three different types of void Moon “moods.”**

This first is much like **Mercury’s retrograde**, when, as the superstition implies, progress is uphill, or nothing works out as planned. Once, during one of these retrograde voids, I applied for a part-time seasonal job. Late from a hair appointment, I raced like a maniac to drop off my application. I got it in just minutes before the Moon went void—but clock timing and Moon timing don’t always synchronize. Even though I was technically safe, what unfolded was definitely retrograde. I never got called for an appointment. My roommate, who applied four days later, got called the next day. It took several calls and another trip to the employment office to determine they’d lost my application—I eventually did get the job, but it took a lot of persistence on my part. As for the job, I had great fun working there, so the void didn’t curse the whole experience. In other words, don’t always give up if you hit a bumpy void road! This Moon void does have its advantages. When you don’t want something to come of the matter, like an obligation date with an acquaintance you’d rather not see, make the appointment during this Moon. There’s a good chance the date will be cancelled.

The second void mood is more like the **Dark Moon**, when energy is low and rest is absolutely necessary. I have a friend who treats all Moon voids like this, refusing to make any commitments or to work on projects during this time. I admire her dedication to the Moon, but I’ve found that many times, while she’s been on a void retreat, I’ve been energized and pleased at my accomplishments. This is especially true during the third type of void mood, which is more like a **New Moon**. This void period can be a highly creative time. It’s like you’ve gone off the mundane grid and become temporarily hooked up to higher inspirations. The trick to this one is recognizing it--and then being willing to break routine in order to take full advantage. I remember one void morning having a delicious time reading a book of short stories, an uncharacteristic activity for me. But I had an article deadline, so I pried myself from the book and forced myself to sit at the computer. I spent hours there, accomplishing nothing. That night, I remembered the void. What a mistake! I wondered what exciting discoveries I would have made had I kept reading that book instead of trying to work. When I picked up the same book the next day, the spark was gone.

I have yet to discover the astrological technique that can predict which type of Moon void a particular day will bring. But I confess I’m not looking too diligently. When we get too attached to predictive techniques, we miss the primary conduit through which Moon information actually comes—through our bodies and intuition. Like most of our moon-wise ancestors, I’ve learned volumes about the Moon through observation and feeling. And I encourage you to do the same. Find a good Moon calendar and fill your schedule book with the next month of void times—then note what happens! Respond—and play with—the mood and energy of the time. Be creative. And don’t expect that your experience will be true for everyone. Science teaches us that anything true must be true at all times in all contexts. But Moon work is not like that. The Moon mixes with each of our varied lives and offers countless reflections. Enjoy its reflection in your life!

