

Astro Spell



☉ Best Spellcasting Days

July Overview

Is it Mordor, or is it the planets? July begins on an Orcish note with a waning moon, a retrograding Mercury, and a Venus-Saturn alignment. The grim and gloomy vibes ease a bit as Mercury goes direct on July 9th, but the Sun and Mercury are dog paddling past the Dog Star in the oceanic, Moon-ruled sign of Cancer. This is an inhospitable environment for both planets, and **people may be oversensitive, moody, or defensive.** Solar links to Uranus and Pallas Athena in Pisces on July 11th open a superb window for heightened perceptions. Divining, scrying, and active dreaming may give unexpected results.

Taurus plays host to Mars in July. This mismatch of sign and planet may provoke bullying and stubborn resistance but can also promote **fierce concentration and phenomenal energy to accomplish goals.** Mars is at odds with Jupiter and Saturn, but gives aid to Mercury and Uranus. Planned projects and activities may face delays or awkwardness, but little goodies may fall from the sky. Plant iron nails by your front door to attract the goodies and repel the irritations.

The New Moon on July 14th is in Cancer, and Venus enters Virgo. This estrogen overdose can trigger an **overpowering urge to fix what's not working properly.** Plumb the dark corners of your heart to discover what is necessary for survival. Venus flashes her magic mirror to show the truth of deep emotions and the embellishment of desires.

The Sun enters Leo on July 22nd (PDT) or 23rd (EDT), where his overwhelming need for attention and triumph come to full potency. **Venus begins her retrograde journey in Virgo on July 27th** (until Sept. 8th). **Venus retrogrades have a nasty reputation for damaging relationships, but when used as a pro-active catalyst, provide a time for improving relationships and career direction,** and for considering methods for self improvement. It's also a good time to look for sweet deals or discounts.

July ends with a Full Moon in Aquarius on the 29th. In close contact with the asteroid Chiron, **this lunation extends the trend for healing, fixing, and inner analysis.** Seek wise counselors to clarify areas of concern.

July Highlights

July 7: (late evening on the 7th or early morning on the 8th): The waning Moon in Aries forms a Grand Trine with Saturn/Venus in Leo and Pluto in Sag. **This tremendously dark, potent energy may be used for past life regressions, discovering hidden treasures, or communicating with the dead.** Don't forget to dismiss these energies when you're finished!

July 9: Mercury direct station in Cancer.

☉ July 11: Sun trine Uranus and Pallas Athena. Excellent for divination.

July 14: New Moon in Cancer, Venus enters Virgo. Good for women's mysteries and rituals honoring the Great Goddess, Artemis, or Hecate.

☉ July 15: Waxing Moon in Leo trine Jupiter in Sagittarius. (2:53 pm PDT, 5:53 EDT). Blend some Jupiter oil or do a green candle prosperity spell.

☉ July 20: Mars sextile Uranus (3:14 pm PDT, 6:14 EDT). Excellent for men's rituals, initiations, or spells for courage and will power.

July 23: Sun enters Leo.

☉ July 25: Moon conjunct Jupiter (9:25 am PDT, 12:25 pm EDT). Charge protection-in-travel amulets or talismans; cast a "circle of safety" on vehicles to prevent accidents.

July 27: Venus retrograde in Virgo.

July 29: Full Moon in Aquarius. Alternate day for Lammas celebrations; **do rituals but avoid spell-casting.** Include prayers/boons for world peace, ending hunger, or to request aid for finding cures for epidemic diseases.

August Overview

August begins with a blast of jubilant fiery energy that makes Lammas a bright spot between the storms. The Sun, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto form a series of **lucky aspects from August 2nd to 9th.** The speck in the eye of this bright period is the Venus retrograde. She's rolling backward into Leo, and squares Mars on the 7th, just as Mars enters Gemini. Lovers beware! Clashes of want and need can cause senseless quarrels.

The New Moon in Leo on August 12th ushers in a veritable landmine of strange and unstable interplanetary connections that spoil the rest of the month. Venus

and Saturn are participants in an **ugly planetary pile-up in the late degrees of Leo that extends from August 13th to the 21st**. Retrograding Venus has a bad case of girl-god PMS due to her extended contact with Saturn, who says "no" to everything she desires. This is a bad hair week, and a particularly bad time for new haircuts or risky fashion choices. Role models fall from grace. Glances from Neptune the Fog King and Pluto the Dark Lord create additional confusion and trigger obsessive-compulsive reactions. **Do daily meditations to strengthen aura shields and protective circles; be on the lookout for sneaky magickal attacks and back-stabbing.** A cosmic fumigation of the home may be necessary after these blighting aspects are past.

A controversy-provoking T-square between Mars, Mercury, and Jupiter stirs up fights and accidents from August 23rd to 25th. By the Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse in Pisces on August 28th, the need to untangle Gordian knots and re-harmonize with others is critical.

August Highlights

August 1: Lammas. The Moon conjuncts Uranus late in the day, making results from spell work unpredictable.

August 2: Sun trine Jupiter. Better for Lammas celebrations, as the Moon is in Aries by late afternoon.

☉ **August 3: (Friday) Grand Trine in Fire (Moon-Sun-Jupiter).** Best alternate day for Lammas celebrations. Flowing energy of fiery Grand Trine is inspirational and uplifting. Perform spells to harvest results from previous efforts.

August 4: Mercury enters Leo.

August 6: Jupiter direct station in Sagittarius.

☉ **August 7: Mars enters Gemini; Mars squares retrograde Venus.** Good for "keep away" spells, or for making "Witch's Bottles" for home protection against thieves.

August 8: Venus retrogrades backwards into Leo.

☉ **August 12: New Moon in Leo. Recharge protective amulets/talismans; cast protective spells around home.** Recommended stones to wear or carry: bloodstone, jet, onyx, and obsidian.

August 13 – 21st: Planetary pile-up on the Ecliptic Highway. Avoid spell-casting.

August 19: Mercury enters Virgo.

August 23: Sun enters Virgo.

August 23 – 25: T-Square between Mars, Mercury, and Jupiter. Spellwork not recommended.

August 28: Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse in Pisces (3:35 am PDT, 6:35 EDT). **Good for house cleansings and purifying baths.** (Spells cast under eclipses wobble and fail.)

September Overview

Saturn, the Lord of Karma, exits Leo and enters Virgo on the 2nd, thus shifting his reconstructive powers from ego issues to hygiene and critical thinking. Mercury enters Libra on the 5th, accelerating the pace of social gatherings early in the autumn.

The first weekend of September features a double twist-and-shout maneuver, as both Venus and Pluto make direct stations. Both stations occur in fire signs, and Venus's turnaround is illuminated by the Moon. **This will be a weekend of public sex scandals and personal revelations.**

The New Moon/Solar Eclipse is on Sept. 11th. Mars and Uranus are firing disruptor beams into the crowd; the god Pan will have a jolly time stirring up panics. **Fine print in contracts can cause trouble;** schools and food suppliers may also have upsets midmonth.

The Autumn Equinox occurs when the Sun enters Libra on Sunday the 23rd (2:52 a.m. PDT, 5:52 a.m. EDT). The Sun is harmoniously accompanied by an airy Aquarian Moon. The Full Moon in Aries follows a few days later, so Mabon ceremonies will enjoy the light of the Harvest Moon. **These happy Sun-Moon combinations encourage new quests, projects, and developing new relationships.**

Mercury enters Scorpio on the 27th, and Mars enters Cancer on the 28th. This shifts the elemental balance from air to water. Mars will remain in Cancer for several months, as he is slowing down for his retrograde in November. Mars will be high in the night sky through the autumn months, hovering between the constellation Orion and the Dog Star, Sirius.

September Highlights

September 2: Saturn enters Virgo (will enter Libra on October 30, 2009).

September 5: Mercury enters Libra.

September 7: Pluto direct station in Sagittarius.

☉ **September 8: Venus direct station in Leo; Moon conjunct Venus. Evening hours good for heart chakra healing spells, spells for recovery, or spells for self love.**

September 11: Solar Eclipse/ New Moon in Virgo (5:44 am PED, 8:44 am EDT). Avoid spellcasting.

☉ **September 13: Moon in Libra, Mercury sextile Jupiter. Excellent for telephone charms, luck in business spells, or attracting a-patron spells.** Sprinkle yarrow in the mailbox to get good news.

September 18: Mercury trine Neptune. Good for divination, astral projection, traveling between dimensions.

September 23: Mabon or Autumn Equinox. Sun enters Libra (2:52 am PDT, 5:52 EDT). With Moon in Aquarius, **suitable for simple rituals and feasts.**

September 26: Full Moon in Aries, Mercury trine Mars. An alternate date for Mabon rituals; **good for consecrating athames, wands, or ritual drums.**

September 27: Mercury enters Scorpio.

September 28: Mars enters Cancer. ☾

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Cernunnos' corner



Spells for Pagan Men

Modern Pagans, men and women alike, often find themselves interested in doing magic for both spiritual/psychotherapeutic (“theurgical”) and practical/mundane (“thaumaturgical”) purposes. “Spells” as such are usually considered to fall into the latter category.

This isn’t the place to explain what magic is or how it works (that’s why I wrote *Real Magic!*) so I will limit myself here to saying that a (working) magical spell is a multi-media psychodrama you perform for yourself. You do this in order to convince your inner child to release the psychic energy that he controls, perhaps with some divine assistance, so your conscious mind can direct it towards a particular target, in order to achieve a specific goal.

Spells don’t always require invoking divine assistance but getting that kind of help always puts more power into your efforts. Doing your homework is vital. Learn which deities from your favorite pantheons are most appropriate for what sorts of spells. Many deities are multi- or even omni-functional. Cernunnos, for example, can be used for hunting, prosperity, fertility, and lust spells. To someone attracted to Irish deities, the Dagda is good for almost any activity that men may be involved in.

For these spells, I use deities and cultural elements with which I’m familiar and comfortable. You should use ones that work for you and adapt my examples to your needs. Each of these spells uses a similar format that many people have found to be effective. Obviously, your concentration and determination are vital to their working properly.

Many spells work better if you have “figure candles” designed to look like men or women; however, if you can’t find figure candles, use regular tapers or votive candles in appropriate colors. If your working area does not have a fireproof surface, obtain a plate or stone that is, upon which to burn all your candles. *Candles*

A magical spell is a multi-media psychodrama you perform to convince your inner child to release psychic energy.

Intro: Whether we are going off to a warzone, getting ready to play a rough sport, or just facing emotional battles, we can all use a little extra courage and protection from time to time.

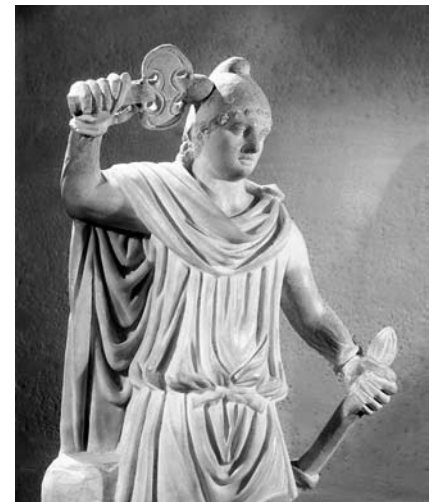
Practical Steps: Dress or visualize yourself as you expect to be dressed when going into battle. Do whatever physical exercises are appropriate to the type of battle expected. Once you’ve worked up a good sweat, do the following spell.

Procedure: Place the smaller candles in a line “facing” the figure candle or in a circle around it, depending on how “surrounded” you expect to be. Light the incense and offer it to the deity image. Light the candles. Visualize Mithras watching as you stand facing the enemy.

Slowly recite *A Song to Mithras* by Rudyard Kipling, passing the talisman through the smoke as you do so. See the power of Mithras flowing into the talisman, then use it to snuff out the taper candles, just as you will use your battle skills to defeat your enemies. Carry the talisman with you when you go into battle and the blessings of Mithras will strengthen and protect you.

should not be left burning unattended! If your home has smoke detectors (and it should!) turn them off during the spell and back on after the smoke has cleared.

- **For courage/protection before battle**
Deity: Mithras, Persian deity of soldiers.
Colors: Red and orange.
Candles: One figure candle (to represent you) plus shorter taper candle(s) to represent the “enemy.”
Incense: Dragon’s blood and myrrh.
Time: Sunday afternoon or as needed.
Talisman: Small sword worn on a chain around your neck or a combat knife.



Mithras as depicted by a Roman statue in the Louvre. (www.clipart.com)