

## **THE TRANSITS OF THE MOON THROUGH THE HOUSES OF THE NATAL CHART: *I BUILD A LIGHTED HOUSE AND THEREIN DWELL***

Esoteric astrology deals with the energies of the Cosmos as they externalize through the Soul of the Sun and from the Great Unit of Life (known as the “Solar Logos”) to the billions of individual souls of the *one Humanity* of which we are all expressions in incarnation. Just as there are billions of individual cells in one human body, so there are in the “esoteric body” of humanity billions of individual cell-souls. Astrology teaches that all people are governed by the same forces and cycles of unfolding energy patterns. The Ancient Wisdom teaches that these forces and movements are *living expressions of the unfolding consciousness* of the One Life in which we all “live, breathe, and have our being.” When intuition guides the intellect and is no longer blocked by it, this vision of the living universe will become part of the collective consciousness of the one human race and wars as we know them will cease to be.

--A.O.

Throughout history and in untold numbers of cultures and civilizations, the Moon has represented the Eternal Feminine and the Mother Principle. She has always been worshipped and adored. In Egypt we find her variously as Hathor, Hecate, and Isis, the goddess of magic. The Catholics have always called theirs the “Mother Church,” for a church is always a “House of God,” offering safety and comfort—well at least in principle! The Vatican was built on Mount Vaticanus, an ancient shrine that used to be sacred to the worship of a mother goddess.

As the female aspect of Divinity, the Moon is the progenitrix of all cults that have a goddess of agriculture and fertility. She is the Chaldean Nana, the Roman Ceres, the Druidic Ceridwen, the Greek Diana (as well as Rhea, mother of Zeus). The Moon is the sacred Virgin of all fathers. She is the Greek Astraea as well as Vesta to whom the Vestal Virgins belonged. She is Mary (a name that can be traced back to the Sanskrit “maya,” meaning “water” and out of which comes the Holy Fish, Jesus). Fundamentally, the Moon provides and nurtures. This is one of the principal reasons why she is associated with cows and milk and thus her exaltation in the sign of Taurus. This nurturing principle extends into soul-centered astrology where we find that the Moon rules Virgo the Virgin (as well as the fullness of the harvest).

In its most basic exoteric meaning, the Moon is the indicator of tribe and family. She is the link to our mother and thus the container of our genetic code, our DNA, and our chromosomes. Hers is the opalescent light of the subconscious, cool and seductive and yet pregnant with all the possibilities of emotional turbulence and upheaval. She is at once receptive and comforting while at the same time evocative of moods of every genre and nuances of feeling of the greatest subtlety. She is a reflection of our self.

We can say that the Moon rules women between the onset of menstruation and the end of menopause. Her 28 day cycle is the same as that of a woman from New Moon (ovulation)

to Full Moon (menstruation) and back again. She governs the oceans' tides and the ever changing flow of bodily fluids in both genders. Her many phases symbolize the shifting moods and feelings that accompany each of us throughout the day and she is especially potent at night and through our dreams. Hers is indeed the realm of the subconscious but the latter is not limited to night or to the dream state. The subconscious is vividly alive twenty four hours a day!

The vast majority of people are ruled by the Moon and her seat of activity, the solar plexus. It is in this part of our (occult) anatomy where our instinct for self-preservation resides. But this sense of preservation is not limited to our physical self. It extends into the maintenance of everything and everyone that we identify as being our own: family, children, things, thoughts, and feelings. She is thus the "goddess of memory." There is a saying that "an elephant never forgets." In astrology we say, "a Cancer (the Moon's own sign) never forgets!" Cancer and the Moon will always cling to the memory of anything that stimulates an instinctive response. Marcel Proust, a great French author, was a Cancer and he wrote a thousand page book based on the smell of a cookie that brought him back to his childhood!

When we are responding instinctively to people, places, and things, it is the Moon that is in charge of our lives. She is especially powerful when it comes to our tastes in food ("just like mama used to make"), our expression or repression of emotions and feelings ("just like when I was a child"), and our fears and anxieties ("just like mama used to have"). It is when we release ourselves from the thralldom and possession of our personal lunar landscape that we become liberated to enter the path of individuation. This is a dangerous crossing for many of us, one that only few attempt to make for it means that we have to objectify our subjective life and that is quite the challenge indeed! It requires that we become a "witness" to ourselves (but not a judge) and look out from a place of conscious observation on how and when our instincts take over and we cease in our ability to make objective choices. We are then victims of our "biological karma" and our powers of individual creativity are severely hampered.

When the Moon is well aspected in our natal chart, the past has been good to us. Our mother knew how to mother us properly and we allowed ourselves to become nurtured with that goodness and are capable of returning it back to life. The well-placed Moon gives abundant food on many levels, allowing a person to be emotionally self-sustaining instead of emotionally needy, giving instead of taking (for we know that we always will have enough), embracing instead of fearful, inclusive instead of exclusive, and open instead of shut off. Such positive combinations include (they are too numerous to list them all): Moon in harmonious relationship with Venus and/or Jupiter especially if the signs Taurus, Cancer, Pisces, Libra are fortuitous, while the Moon

with Mars (especially if Sagittarius or Aries are involved) may make for a brash person, but certainly a courageous one.

On the other hand, an afflicted Moon creates a definite feeling of dread and a fear of the unknown. It gives an “anything could happen and it will be bad” kind of attitude, pessimistic in thoughts (especially if Mercury and/or his signs—Virgo and Gemini—are involved) and feelings. A deep sense of lack of self-worth and the seemingly “natural” choice of partners who support such *instinctive* responses in relationship are the product of difficult aspects between the Moon and Saturn. Even the benign relationship of the Moon and Venus when square or opposed can lead to challenges in the “I am worthy-to-be-loved department” of life.

The Moon in your horoscope is your mother, family and tribe incarnating as you! The Moon’s two primary signs, Cancer (rulership) and Taurus (exaltation) are pretty conservative, stick-with-it-no-matter-what kind of signs. How you treat that family and your relationship to it after you have left the family home (if indeed most of us ever truly do) and whether you maintain, repeat, or destroy and replace, your original family patterning is an essential core issue within each of our personal psychologies and an essential element of our individual dramas.

The transit of the Moon is a pretty regular and highly predictable cycle. It takes about 28 days for the Moon to transit the entire circle of our natal chart, remaining in each of the 12 houses for an average period of 2.5 days (60 hours). The latter is given only to represent the mean time it takes the Moon to pass through 30° of a sign or an equal house. Most of us do not use the equal house system, preferring Placidus or Koch. This means, depending on our latitude of birth, the Moon can take as little as less than half a day or as many as four or more days to transit a house.

It is a very simple matter to calculate just how long the Moon will remain in each of the houses of your chart. It takes Luna about 2 hours to transit one degree of celestial longitude. Thus all you have to do is count the number of degrees in a given house, multiply by 2 and that will give you your results. Thus, should you have 13° Aquarius on your Third House cusp and 10° Pisces on your Fourth, just multiply 27 (the number of degrees between the two cusps in question) by 2 which will give you 54. Thus the Moon will always need about 54 hours to transit that house each month. As always, you will get the most out of this article about planetary transits if you read along with your natal chart near at hand.

The primary focus of the Moon when transiting each of the houses is to bring out the inherent meaning of that house in terms of our sense of personal security and immediate emotional needs. Please keep the natal house position of your own Moon in mind as this house and its activities will be very highlighted when Luna stops by for her monthly visit.

**Transiting Moon in the First House (Ascendant):** You are very sensitive to your immediate environment now and very aware of your surroundings. You may find that it is important for your feelings to be made known to others and that they are accepted in a way that supports your intentions. Family matters may easily come to the forefront of activities as well as circumstances that involve your domestic life. One of the most positive effects of this transit is that you can formulate your relationship to the environment in ways that are most satisfying to you. One of the most negative is that you come away feeling misunderstood by those closest to you.

**Transiting Moon in the Second House:** The realm of personal finances is highlighted at this time. You may well discover that money is needed for family and domestic situations. If the Moon makes some positive aspect to Jupiter, Venus, the Sun, or Pluto during these days, such economic support is often easily forthcoming. Should the Moon square or oppose these planets, take care not to spend more than you have as a result of emotional impulse. The Moon in difficult aspect to Saturn or Neptune from the Second House brings out a red flag that warns against incurring additional debts. The most important message you will receive during this time of the month will concern the relationship between your sense of self-worth and your financial condition.

**Transiting Moon in the Third House:** Relationships with siblings and/or very close friends are highlighted, presenting opportunities for intimate, emotional contacts with such individuals. Take advantage of these encounters by increasing shared interests and intimacies. Challenges arise should the Moon find herself afflicting other planets while transiting this position. These challenges need not be avoided but can be resolved if you are objective to the emotional content within such conflicting situations. Visits to or from family members are other common occurrences that may take place during these days.

**Transiting Moon in the Fourth House (IC):** The keywords here are: roots and foundations. This is a monthly period when it is good for you to take a long and profound look inside of yourself. It is definitely a period for introspection and self-examination. Thus does not mean self-judgement or criticism! The Moon has “come home” at this time and you would do well to do the same. This means that a wise period of consideration of your motivations within your intimate relationships could prove quite rewarding. All areas of your emotional and family life are particularly sensitive now and you will be called upon to be very nurturing to your own “inner child.” Learning how to best nurture ourselves is a life-long project...

**Transiting Moon in the Fifth House:** What do we do for fun that is emotionally supportive and provides relief from the many stresses of life? The Moon passing through this house can answer such questions. Should she be in difficult aspect to the natal Moon, Mars, the Sun and/or the ruler of the Fifth during this time, we may well find that such pursuits are not nurturing at all—in fact

just the contrary! Stay objective to what makes you happy, or what you *think* makes you happy. If the Moon is well aspected during her stay in this domicile, then you will find that these are some of the most enjoyable days of the month for you. Relationships with lovers and children are also strongly emphasized during this time.

**Transiting Moon in the Sixth House:** All matters relating to relationships at work take on special importance at this time. Once again, emotional objectivity is the key to getting the most out of any lunar position. Now you have the opportunity to see how and why your work area is either nurturing or not nurturing your emotional needs. How are you being supportive of others in this part of your life and how are others being supportive of you? Health is of course another area that is affected by the Moon's transit through the Sixth. Thus it is common for people to find that they are visiting their doctor or dentist at this time or otherwise taking a look at health issues.

**Transiting Moon in the Seventh House (Descendant):** The emotional and instinctual psychological conditioning factors that underlie our "urge to merge" come up for examination whenever the Moon transits this, the House of Partnership. A beneficial lunar passage at this time advances and benefits our relationships while the Moon afflicting other planets in the horoscope (especially the natal Moon, Venus, and/or the ruler of the Seventh), points to interpersonal challenges of a most intimate nature. As the Moon will always be making the same aspects to the natus every month, we have numerous opportunities to check out our subjective patterns of needs and wants on the emotional level in order to understand ourselves and others that much better. Astrology is a great tool...

**Transiting Moon in the Eighth House:** This is often not the easiest time of the month for any of us as the Moon is not a "happy camper" whilst camped out in the Eighth. It is here that she (and we) are often challenged to change our emotional tune. We are living in the realm of other people's financial and emotional needs and wishes at this time and how we succeed during these days is a matter of subtle understanding. If we put ourselves first at this time, negating the demands of the circumstances surrounding us, we are bound to enter into conflicts. This would be especially true should the Moon be afflicting Mars, the natal Moon, Venus, or Pluto during the time of this transit. Benefits may come to us while the Moon is in the Eighth if we stay alert to other people's emotional needs.

**Transiting Moon in the Ninth House:** This is often a good time to assess our spiritual journey. What activities give the most support to our Path? How can we take the time to nurture the Higher Self? What can we do to bring out the best in our lives? These and other related questions may easily come up for examination during the Moon's passage through this domicile. This is often a good period to think about further education and those activities we can undertake to widen our

horizons. If the Moon is in good aspect to Jupiter and/or the ruler of the Ninth (and Mercury is direct!), this is a perfect time to make travel and vacation plans.

**Transiting Moon in the Tenth House (Midheaven):** Situations involving our social status, career, and relationships with authority figures (especially our father) may easily come up for examination at this time. Do we feel nurtured and supported in our goals for a better life? Are we being supportive of the people who can advance our aims and ambitions? Are these purposes correct for us or are we merely attached to our outer life activities for the sake of emotional security and not for any deeper, inner satisfaction? We will often find ourselves in conflict about these issues if the Moon is afflicting the natal Moon, Saturn, and/or the ruler of the Midheaven at this time. Harmonious aspects between these factors generally indicate advances and support in terms of these Tenth House affairs.

**Transiting Moon in the Eleventh House:** Friendships take on special significance during the time the Moon is transiting this house. This is a time in which being supportive of our friends is high up on our agenda. We may also be seeking such support from our associates during these days. Group activities also take precedence as we reach out and network within the scope of our social contacts while the Moon is in the Eleventh. Other situations that arise at this time have to do with how we are supporting our visions and hopes for tomorrow. What is the type of support we are seeking from others in order to achieve such goals? This is a great time to answer this question so that we may examine if the social setting in which we find ourselves is the correct one.

**Transiting Moon in the Twelfth House:** This is one of the least socially oriented positions for the Moon. It is now that we frequently yearn to withdraw a bit from the world around us and seek out the comfort of solitude for awhile. You want to be able to rest emotionally and take a break from the demands that you place upon yourself and that others place upon you. The Twelfth House transit of the Moon is therefore for many people a definite “veg-out” time of the month. Others find that the Moon in this position is perfect for research, cleaning out the basement or attic both literally and figuratively. Whatever you decide to do (or most likely, not do), this is certainly not a period in which outer activities predominate. Enjoy the peace and quiet—if you can.

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