

## Full Moon December 2010, Winter Solstice

Please allow me to offer an astrological perspective on the Winter Solstice ceremonies of Tuesday, December 21st. The Solstice itself occurs when the Sun is at its most southerly point of the year. Metaphysically, this is the true seed-time, the true end of 2010 and the true beginning of 2011. In ceremony on the Solstice, we are forming the seed of the next year, through acknowledging the past with gratitude, for the lessons we have learned are now the motivation quickening the life within.

This year's Solstice occurs on the same day as the Full Moon. I believe that this offers a unique opportunity for an attunement that could help actualize the potential of your Solstice ceremonies. I will try to explain why.

The Moon is Full when it is exactly opposite the Sun in the sky, with the Earth between them. Visualizing this is an interesting exercise. Imagine you are born on December 21st this year. Looking towards the Sun, you will be looking towards the last degree of Sagittarius – an energy we will discuss later. But from the Sun's perspective, the Earth is in the last Degree of Gemini. And past the Earth, on the same line (but not in the same plane), is the Moon. Actually this year, the Sun, Moon, and Earth are in a line and in the same plane this year, thus the Eclipse.

So, if our Sun is in Sagittarius, our shadow falls in Gemini. In this sense, the opposite of each Sun sign is its shadow sign. Now imagine the function of the Full Moon – it is to shine light into the shadow we cast.

This seems to me to explain the intensity of Full Moons. It is well known that police departments and emergency rooms are significantly busier during the Full Moon than at other times of the month. When the Moon cycle is not honored or utilized, its strength is misdirected.

But when the cycle is honored, when we allow the Moon to guide us, the Full Moon is the time for us to reflect on our growth. The light of the Moon illuminates our soul, allowing us to sense where we are, how far we have come (or gone). Can you see how vividly Moonlight brings out the details of whatever it is shining on?

In ceremony, the Full Moon is honored through sharing, with ourselves and our tribe, this sense of growth. It is so honest, the Moonlight.

This year, we have a unique opportunity to bring this honesty to our Solstice ceremonies. I invite you to allow the Light of the Moon to really show you where you are as you set your intentions for 2011.

If you want to go a little farther with the zodiacal sense of the day, I want to briefly share my sense of two horoscopes. One is for the moment of the Full Moon, at 12:13 am, Pacific Time. The other is for the moment of the Solstice, at 3:38 pm Pacific.

In both charts, the Moon is emphasized as the handle of the bucket formed by the rest of the planets – in other words, all the planets except for the Moon are in one hemisphere of the sky and the Moon is directly opposite the middle of that hemisphere, focalizing the energies of the rest of the planets. So the Moon is very strong all day.

Interestingly, during the 12 hours spanned by these two horoscopes, it is also conjunct its South Node. The purpose of this is to heighten the reflective power of the Moon. We get to REALLY know where we're coming from.

Of course this means that at the same time the Sun will be conjuncting the North Node – in other words, the direction our souls want us to go is in unity with the very Life Force represented by the Sun. In both horoscopes, the Sun is the focus of a T-square, adding a sort of dynamic urgency to it – this formation says

that we not only want to go there (in the sense of the North Node conjunction) but that we don't have much choice – sooner or later we have to get there.

In order to best align ourselves with the energies of the day, I will next share three Chandra symbols with you. They are for the position of the Moon at its Fullness, the position of the Moon at the moment of Solstice, and the position of the Sun throughout this sacred day. The interpretations that follow the symbols are from Elias Lonsdale's "Inside Degrees." After each I will briefly discuss how it fits into my sense of the day.

The Moon at the moment of Fullness is at

### **GEMINI 30**

#### ***Many glass animals on a shelf.***

"Microworlds and macroworlds reflect each other's light. There are those for whom the microworld becomes the entire focus, reflecting the light of the macrocosm within tiny jeweled moments and personal tie-ins. This results in each and every little thing lighting up with striking significance. But it is far more magical than that. For as you enter completely inside of these special moments and sparkling reflections, there arises a mode of experience that is stunning. The most basic and elemental things turn into the instantaneous invocation of the miracle of existence. And so it becomes the surface and the common layers that are packed with the infinite splendor. Daily life as pure celebration engaged in both rapturously and just as the way it is."

Is there a better energy to sit with? Imagine sitting with this energy and allowing it to form the seed of intentionality we wish to nurture, to start our new year with. How perfect, how lovely, the creation of this moment!

But we are also wise, and so we know that this seed will be planted in a darkness. For it is the nature of our commitment to live in this Earthly plane that it be testing. There is no light without darkness, no sound without silence. The Designer has made it so that we will be able to use the energy of Gemini 30 to CREATE the seed. But we will plant it in the darkness of the Solstice Moon at

### **CANCER 9**

#### ***A skeleton playing a flute.***

"Death is a haunting accompanist to the tender side of life. The spine tingling touch of death close at hand renders poignant and accentuates what is vital in the world of the living. It takes courage to dance with death. Fear is natural under the circumstances. You have to play your fear and turn it into the music of courage. Wandering along the threshold between the living and the dead, belonging to neither world, yet integrally part of both. Intimately familiar with every side of existence. One who passes as a stranger, unknown and unknowable. Solitude is your element. The contemplation of the mysteries becomes as natural as breath, as ingrained as holding steady in the violent windstorm of life in the Earth. Lyrical, melancholy, and disassociated from familiar comforting things. A mist or haze wraps you about, creating an aura of the uncanny, and it is there you feel at home and nowhere else."

And the seed of our intentions will rest in this soil, for awhile. But throughout this day, the Life Force of the Sun stays the same. The Life that is reflecting off that beautiful Full Moon is also the Life Force quickening the seed in the darkness.

As I said, the Sun of this day could be said to be our destiny, through its conjunction to the North Node, and our Fate, as the point of a T-square. It is our desire and our karma. And as you will see, it is a beautiful energy to infuse into the Seed of your coming year. I am honored to share my sense of this very important day with you – I know each of you reading this is so very wise, has such incredible insight into the meaning of this day.

And so it is with humility and respect that I invite you to meditate, with me, on the Life Force energy of Tuesday, December 21st. A day that starts in the light of the Full Moon and journeys through the darkness of the Solstice. At every moment in the journey of this day, we will be warmed by, pulled towards, given life by, the Sun at

### **SAGITTARIUS 30**

#### ***The completion of a large Persian rug.***

“The design of the world-matrix entered upon, fathomed, appreciated, beheld, and entered into completely. Losing the self and finding the self. Dancing at the edge of infinity, you are able to take up any lesson or phase with utter, rapt abandon, you’ve been given the chance to take personally and collectively every old karmic cycle and free it up and move onward. An arduous, consuming endeavor. The sensation of bondage and freedom as one. You feel driven to the utmost extent to become all of yourself and to be done with errant fragments. The process is endless, yet each stroke is inspired and transcendent and blessed. For when you agree to take on what nobody can take on, you are a thousand-fold blessed and given every consideration, as you're doing the true work, letting the world-matrix breathe into spaces beyond.”

You Are Doing The True Work!

Happy New Year!

Jon

p.s. This year, the Sun, the Full Moon, and the Earth are in the same plane, which means that on the Winter Solstice we get to go deeper into seed time. The moonlight of the Full Moon is not shining into our Shadows. I will leave it up to you to decide what this means in your life. Early risers in the Pacific Northwest (or those who are in ceremony all night) will get the best chance to see this Lunar Eclipse, after about 4:30 am and on into the dawn.