

HalfMoonWaxingDecember2010 *An ancient gold scarab lying in the sand.*

The Earth experience is strong this week. In Moon terms, we are down in the roots. The weight of the Earth is strong on us, as we push toward the light of the Full Moon. The Half Moon Waxing is the time of the month when the Moon is in waxing square to the Sun.

In order to fully illuminate this phase of the Moon, I need to make sure you can “see” where the Moon is, physically and metaphysically.

It is fairly easy to visualize the Moon cycle.... In your mind you can do it in a few seconds, so you can leave out all the rotational and orbital factors. Imagine you are standing on the Earth, facing the Sun. In the same plane as the Sun, draw in your mind a huge cross – one line goes from the Sun, straight through you and continues behind you into space. Another line crosses this first one, coming from your left, through you, and off to your right into space. These two lines are perpendicular to one another, and their intersection is, essentially, your heart.

Now let’s swing the Moon on its month-long orbit around the Earth. Because we are descended from pure spirit beings, we can make the Moon move as fast as we want. In this paragraph the Sun, and the Earth we are standing on, don’t move. We are looking down the line to the Sun. At New Moon, the Moon is on the line between you and the Sun, it is between the Sun and the Earth. No light reflects from it towards you, and you can’t see it in the sky. Then the Moon moves to your left, and the light reflecting from it increases, or waxes. At Half-Moon Waxing, the Moon is on the perpendicular line, on your left. The light from the Sun is reflecting off the Moon’s right side. Then it continues around until it crosses the line from you to the Sun, except it is behind you... at Full Moon the Earth is between the Sun and Moon. Then it moves off to your right, coming from behind the Earth until it crosses the perpendicular line. At Half Moon Waning, the Sun’s light is reflecting off the left half of the Moon. Then the Moon completes its circle, lining up with the Sun, to become New again. I think that’s a fairly good description of the Moon cycle in physical terms. So now let’s do the Metaphysical thing. Imagine that cross we drew. Now we are going to lay down on it. Keep the intersection of the lines at your heart. The Sun is in your right hand. Your feet are toward the Waxing half. Your left arm is stretched out toward the Moon at Full, and your head is on the line to the Waning Moon. So in this paragraph, the Sun and the New Moon can be in your right hand. At the Half-Moon Waxing, the Moon is at your feet. At Full Moon, the Sun is in your right hand and the Moon is in your left hand. At Half-Moon Waning, the Moon is at your head.

Now you are inside your chart, looking out.

So, in this week’s Half-Moon Waxing phase, there is no light coming from above – you have to look down to “see the light,” to learn. Bil Tierney, in “Dynamics of Aspect Analysis,” says, “The lower (waxing) square exposes our root vulnerabilities, disclosing where we tend to act or react irrationally and regressively.”

Tierney calls the waxing square the “lower” square. He says, “Lower squares help us develop our sense of depth....” This is the time of the month when the power of the subconscious is the greatest, when we can most access “the subtle stress factors programming our surface behavior.”

These days, those “subtle stress factors” might not be so subtle.... A lot of us are really struggling – money is tough, the nights are long, Christmas is coming and society has created massive expectations that combined can make this the hardest time of the year. “Stress factors programming our surface behavior.” Hmmm.

I don’t like to think of stress factors programming any of my behaviors. But I have to acknowledge they are there. In fact, I have to feel into them, welcome them and feed them, in order to really learn them. Only then can I truly work with them.

Saturn is the planet that helps release us from those root vulnerabilities, those subtle stress factors. This may seem like a surprising statement – Saturn got a pretty bad rap in twentieth century astrology. Right here, I could

dive into duality, good/evil, straight through Eve tasting the apple and end up making some nice sweeping generalizations about how limiting Patriarchy has been. But I'd rather just say that Karma is a good thing.

It may be said that Saturn's function in its "Lord of Karma" role is to keep returning us to our root vulnerabilities. And I think this is a good thing. And the reason I think that is because it is the only way I know to make sense of life in this physical manifestation. If we need to exist in this place, in our bodies, it is because we need to experience everything this has to offer. Maybe "the light" is what we want but it seems like we are here to learn to see it everywhere, not just where we expect it or want it to be.

By looking for the "light," the lesson, the meaning in even our darkest experience, we can learn to love "the Work" for which Saturn is known.

The Half-Moon Waxing of December 13th, 2010 is at 5:58 AM Pacific time. For any moment in time and space, the birth chart is a map of the heavens at that moment – it is the mandala of the moment. Mandalas are meditation tools – we meditate on them to gain deeper insights.

In Sandpoint, Idaho, this mandala has Sagittarius rising and a first house Sagittarius Sun, squaring a Pisces Moon. There are a lot of very interesting energies in this chart but the ones I'd like to focus on are Mercury, which just went retrograde for the holidays, the Moon, which is juiced up by its conjunction to Jupiter and Uranus; and Saturn – the symbols for each of these in that order will bring the light up from below.

Mercury went retrograde on Friday the 10th in 6 degrees of Capricorn. Our Mind's Journey goes inward. Meditate with me on the energy of:

An ancient gold scarab lying in the sand.

"Ancient wisdom can become miniaturized, essentialized, stripped down to fit within changed worlds. The quintessential ability to recognize what counts, what is vitally relevant, what must be kept in mind. Discerning judiciously what is livable truth and how the mysteries play out in the material world, you are so stark and spare that the cosmic overtones are turned out and the practical applications are turned in. The expression becomes more worldly and pragmatic. But inside of everything, the code behind world phenomena is being held in view. Law, ethic, principle, and high standards. Being a representative of the priestly caste of old in modern dress, and most of all knowing how to handle yourself impeccably."

So it turns out this retrograde is a blessing, an opportunity. You can see how this can give us strength to work with this challenging Moon, at:

PISCES 22

A blacksmith creating an ornate garden gate.

"Hard substance is impossibly tough if you fall into letting it be that, but is the perfect basis if you are willing to make it so. All the resistances, crystallizations, dysfunction, and foundational dissonances are great excuses to stop or immense occasions to start. You get laid low if you do not know what to do with the stuff of this world. But if you have learned the subtle craft of world-making, you're best off meeting up against the hardest places and discovering how to turn them completely around--the exceedingly demanding guild of those who dig into the depths and draw forth beauty and infinite power from the brutal and heavy realities which otherwise seem impenetrable. A stubbornly hardworking, impossible-to-discourage craft of reworking the primal soil. Mostly unproductively, mostly learning how forever, paying your dues, never quite getting it right, until there comes a day when even the obdurate bends to the inner design--when the conviction is complete."

And so we are drawn into "the exceedingly demanding guild of those who dig into the depths." And as we look down, we see light coming up to us. Saturn offers us a way to "Work" through this, a feeling to guide us, the illuminating energy of Saturn, at:

LIBRA 16

A woman: The lower half of her body is a serpent.

"Magic working simultaneously from two divergent levels. The regular, human, everyday magic of holding

yourself together as a complex and volatile mix by sheer intent. And the deeper magic of yielding into the undersoul, the passions, the desires, the impulses, and the skills of the subconscious levels. Primarily being absorbed in the deep forces of body and soul. But meanwhile bending over backwards to frame everything in normalcy. This combination is extremely difficult to maintain. It is fragile, delicate, and dangerous. You secretly exult in how impossible it really is and urge yourself onward to work this magic and wield it with the same kind of life-force that moves at the edge of an abyss and stays on that edge in a balancing act that may capsize at any moment. And it therefore is entered upon with a passion of the most dazzling cross between sheer foolishness and a wizard's mastery."

In astrology, the perfection of the universe may be seen.

On the New Moon we committed to "become as children." And now, as the light of the Sun is overcoming the dark of the Moon, as we stay "on that edge in a balancing act that may capsize at any moment," Saturn teaches us the feeling of the Way.

So I invite you to live in this moment between the dark and the light, to enter upon your way "with a passion of the most dazzling cross between sheer foolishness and a wizard's mastery."

Here's to the Foolish Wizard in you!

The Moon lives!

Jon