

The Astrology of the Black Moon
A Guide to Healing the Shadow Side



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In Memoriam

H.M. Frietsch
A True Seeker

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I have been truly blessed.

Introduction

Plagued by paradoxes, my efforts to bring the astrology of the Black Moon to light twisted my mind inside out. As a result, this book has died and been reborn countless times. A book charting the cycles of transpersonal “death” and “rebirth” probably could not be written any other way. It has been a long, hard journey with this dark Goddess. But, as it inevitably happens when we walk through darkness, I emerged from it with the gift of clearer understanding.

Although from the beginning I could readily discern the nature of the Black Moon, there was always one question that haunted me: what exactly *is* the Black Moon? It is “there” but it is not “there.” The astrological effects are tangible, but there is no corresponding physical planet in space.

The early, esoteric writings of Ivy Goldstein Jacobson describe the Black Moon as an etheric second moon. Others speculate that it affects us from another dimension. But one day I was enlightened: the planet is not there now, but it *was* there in the past. I believe that the Black Moon is the energetic remains of the shattered planet that is now known as the Asteroid Belt.

As it happens, the one planet in our solar system that is no longer actually a planet could be the most powerful of them all. This is because it is *unconscious* and anything that remains unknown or hidden, by its very nature, holds power. The Black Moon encapsulates what Carl Jung called our “shadow side.” It represents the unconscious part of the psyche that drives many of our choices and actions. Our lack of awareness of it keeps us trapped in cycles of self-defeating behavior.

The transits of the Black Moon are like a Pluto transit compacted into one month. They are dramatic and empowering because they bring the issues of the shadow side out into the light where they can be understood and transcended. When we bring what is unconscious into conscious awareness, we can overcome the cycle. We can transcend the shadow.

The Black Moon is complicated. There are two sides to her - she has both a dark side and a light side. This is the most misunderstood aspect of the Black Moon because most astrologers believe the effects are purely negative. On the surface, the effects seem negative but when we look a little deeper, we see that there was a positive outcome in play – a plan for renaissance.

“Strife followed by reward” is the Black Moon’s motto. She embodies the cycle of death and rebirth and her transits follow suit. As the transiting Black Moon approaches a planet, she takes us down into the underworld for a face to face encounter with the truth of ourselves. When she makes the exact contact with a planet and then begins to move off, we are reborn. A transmutation from our former self to a new version of our self occurs.

Without a doubt, the revelations of the Black Moon take us into the far reaches of our shadow sides in order to bring them into the light. Once we do that, we are able to tap the power that is contained there. That said, tapping directly into a primal source of power and energy is a dangerous thing and can cause chaos for anyone.

Many of my clients have changed their lives in striking and unexpected ways after learning about their Black Moon. Potent archetypal energy is contained in the shadow side and even the gentlest tap on it can unleash a torrent of events. In many cases, when the shadow side is revealed, feelings about our lives that have been building just under the surface are freed, enabling us to address them. The astrology of the Black Moon is perfectly timed to such scenarios.

Since the Black Moon brings what was previously unconscious into awareness, the effects of this may necessitate consultation with a counselor, coach, guide, or professional practitioner. Actually, the astrology of Black Moon is very well-suited to psychotherapy.

Regardless, the time has come for us to face forward and go beyond the shadow. It is time to recognize it for what it is and embrace it so that we can regain the personal power that is trapped there.

The reader will have noticed how I have anthropomorphized the Black Moon as a feminine astrological entity. I have taken this liberty after studying her for several years and coming to the conclusion that it is distinctly feminine, maternal energy that affects us at the deepest levels. After working with the Black Moon, you may come to adopt a similar perception.

However, one need not adopt my theory that the Black Moon is the lost planet of the Asteroid Belt in order to benefit from its astrology. I put forward this work in the spirit of contributing to the growing field of knowledge. The information contained here has been borne out of real-world practice and its validity will be proven or disproven through test of time. My hope is that the information will be applied in useful ways – ways that help us transcend the part of ourselves that lives in the recesses of our beings. We can move past our own darkness once we see

it for what it is. Surely this is an integral step in the evolution and ascension of consciousness.

Writing about the elusive Black Moon has been like trying to catch a shadow. Several years after I began to study the Black Moon, I was finally able to synthesize the book when the transiting Black Moon made the conjunction to my own natal Sun – the most potent of the Black Moon’s transits. For me, the transit revealed that we can only define the Black Moon to a certain degree. Much of our understanding of it must be intuitive and somewhat peripheral because she is largely intangible. This is just the nature of this energy - it defies the limitations and restrictions that definitions encumber. I am sure it is also due to the fact that the planet’s physical remains are in fragments. We will never fully understand the Black Moon, and I have come to not only accept this but also appreciate this about her.

Before I close, I would be remiss without giving this warning: The information you will learn carries a high level of responsibility. Some people will be tempted to use this knowledge against others. Knowing a person’s greatest fear can be a dangerous weapon. Using the wisdom of the Black Moon to gain power or control will *always* backfire, and it is a force that you do not want turned against you.

The Black Moon has been waiting in the wings for us to discover what she has to offer. I have tried to present both sides of her energy, respecting her darkness as well as the light she imparts. Isn’t it high time to uncover what has been hidden and leave the darkness behind?

Laura Walker

October 2011

Virginia Beach, Virginia

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Out of the Shadows

When starlight aligns in just the right way, our shadows come to life, plunging us naked into the depths of the underworld. The descent strips us of our illusions until finally we are born anew, rising from the underworld like the phoenix, shooting straight for the light of day, holding the promise of a new beginning.

Such is the way of the Black Moon. She has been the missing piece in astrology, hidden among the shadows, but now it is time for her to come to light. It is time to bring the Black Moon out of the darkness of the underworld and into the light of day where she can complete the pantheon of astrological bodies in our solar system.

But we have a problem before we even get started. Understanding the Black Moon is difficult because it is not a physical planet. It *was* a planet in the distant past. The ancient texts refer to the planet as Tiamat (sometimes as Krypton) and locate it between Mars and Jupiter. Tiamat is the “lost planet” in the solar system. The ravaged husks of the planet – its shattered remains – are now recognized as the Asteroid Belt.

There are several theories about the cause of Tiamat’s destruction. Ideas range from a natural cosmic catastrophe to an ancient interplanetary war. Personally I am inclined toward the latter, and recommend the work of Dr. Joseph Farrell for those who wish to pursue the subject.

I propose that when this lost planet broke apart (or when it was destroyed, depending on your view) it “fell” from the field of consciousness. With this, we lost the understanding of how it fit into our cosmology and its importance in maintaining the balance of our psyches. But the lost planet did endure in the form of a shadow - a phantom hovering along the fringes of awareness in a nebulous, half-understood astrological entity known alternately as the Black Moon, the Black Moon Lilith, the Dark Moon, and the Dark Moon Lilith.

If it is true that energy can never be destroyed, the energy of Tiamat has maintained cohesion at some level regardless of what physically happened to the planet. This book suggests that the electromagnetic, gravitational, and harmonic energetic fields of Tiamat survived the planet’s destruction and remain in effect today as the astrological Black Moon. Just like all astrological bodies, this stellar force

profoundly affects our lives. Even though it is “merely” the energetic vestiges of the former planet, it should not be assumed that the Black Moon is not astrologically viable or somehow less potent. In fact, an endeavor is undertaken here to make a case that the Black Moon’s power and influence is rivaled by no other planet in the system.

The ancient texts also directly refer to Tiamat as “the Mother” and tell stories of mother energy with the dual aspects of the Nurturing Mother and the Devouring Mother playing their roles. This is exactly how the Black Moon operates. As the Black Moon travels around our astrological charts and makes aspects to our planets, we first encounter the Devouring Mother. We experience a “fall.” Some part of us – something that no longer serves our course of growth and evolution - is taken down or exposed.

This experience is quite difficult for us. The transits of the Black Moon hit us at a very deep, unconscious level. We react to it from a core level of fear that is housed in our shadow side. Our shadow side rears up when the Black Moon transits. Anything - from an episode of depression to an existential/soul crisis or psychological breakdown to a dramatic life change - can happen when the Black Moon begins to come into effect. Oftentimes our reaction to the transit is quick and less than discretionary because we are operating from unconscious motivations. The level of “take down” varies widely but can generally be determined based on the house and sign placement, as well as contributing aspects, specifically conjunctions and oppositions.

When we have “fallen” as far as we are going to go, we encounter the Nurturing Mother. This happens when the transiting Black Moon makes the exact conjunction or opposition to a planet. We feel like we are starting over, being reborn. But we are better than we were before. We are not only stronger and wiser, we are *cleansed*. The transit cycle of the Black Moon purges the emotional and physical restrictions or limitations that are blocking our way, clearing the field for new opportunities and experiences through renaissance.

The Dark Feminine

We can see why the Black Moon has been so hard to recognize and understand. First, as stated above, it has been called by many names: the Black Moon, the Dark Moon, the Black Moon Lilith, and the Dark Moon. The astrological body discussed here is *not the asteroid* known as the Black Moon Lilith. This book focuses on the Black Moon as the energetic point between Mars and Jupiter that has an orbit of 8 years and 10 months and

does not retrograde. There is much confusion because we are talking about two different things with similar names. For reference, the Black Moon discussed here entered Taurus on December 16, 2011.

The Black Moon has also been misunderstood because it seen as a purely malefic and “dark” astrological symbol. As a collective, humanity has a tenuous relationship with darkness. We tend to view and judge things from lenses of black or white and good or bad. Dark has become synonymous with bad. But ancient cultures understood that darkness is the time of the feminine, serving its own special role in the balance of light. It is from darkness that all things are conceived.

Darkness – nighttime – is the time when we nourish and replenish ourselves. During sleep, we journey through our dreams all alone as our inner world comes alive. Facing our own inner darkness is a natural as going to sleep, but we have come to blanket anything “dark” or “negative” as something to avoid. This has created a significant problem. Our determined denial of our own darkness is what has allowed it to grow to monumental proportions that we unknowingly manifest in the world at large, sickening our human collective.

The “dark feminine” is where healing and re-creation occur, and this is symbolized by the “dark void” – the remnants of Tiamat that remain astrologically influential as the Black Moon. The symbolic “return of Tiamat” and her transformation from The Lost Planet to now The Unbounded Planet, heralds the return of the abstract state of mind – the feminine mind - which is what is now needed to bring equilibrium to systems that are very much out of balance. As we awaken to our own shadow side, we are balancing whatever trauma occurred to bring about the planet’s destruction and subsequently our loss of a part of our psyches that remains in shadows. We are reclaiming our personal power that is trapped in ignorance.

So the Black Moon operates on unseen levels but the astrology of the Black Moon brings unconscious, previously hidden information to light, specifically:

- ∅ our personal shadow side;
- ∅ the primary fear that blocks or undermines us in life; and
- ∅ the fundamental way in which we judge ourselves and others.

Recovering this lost or hidden knowledge about ourselves is an act of self-nurturance, which speaks to the heart of the mother energy of the

archetype. The Black Moon seeks to reunite all of the parts of ourselves that have been disconnected and abandoned, bringing us into cohesive harmony and returning our full strength.

The Shadow Side

We will not digress into a discussion of psychiatrist Carl Jung’s trailblazing and brilliant work on what he identified as the “shadow” because it is well covered in the literature. We can summarize his theory of the shadow as the part of the psyche that contains our shortcomings and repressed weaknesses. The shadow is the side of us that is unconscious and hidden from view most of the time. It is often called our dark side and each of us has one. It is the part of us that we don’t want to acknowledge because we usually don’t like it.

My take on the shadow is that, at its core, the shadow is the home of a “primary fear” – a fear that exerts considerable power in our lives. It is called a primary fear because it is based at the *primal*, instinctual levels, and therefore operates on the principles of survival. The primary fear is a chief motivator for many of our choices in life.

In astrology, the Black Moon is the point in the chart that identifies the shadow side and thus the primary fear. There are twelve primary fears, one for the Black Moon in each sign:

- ARIES – fear of unworthiness
- TAURUS – fear of scarcity
- GEMINI – fear of rejection
- CANCER – fear of abandonment
- LEO – fear of change
- VIRGO – fear of failure
- LIBRA – fear of loneliness
- SCORPIO – fear of loss
- SAGITTARIUS – fear of meaninglessness
- CAPRICORN – fear of neglect
- AQUARIUS – fear of powerlessness
- PISCES – fear of vulnerability/harm

The Fall

Primary fears subvert our personal growth and feelings of happiness. Oftentimes they impede our success because fear is what stops us cold in our tracks when we are venturing into unknown territory. Our choices and actions are directly proportional to the level of control our shadow exerts over us. When the fear that is contained in the shadow side is dominant, we feel unfulfilled and unsatisfied. This prevents us from becoming fully empowered, integrated people. These fears keep us from actualizing our potential and sharing who we really are with the rest of the world.

Since the shadow side is largely unconscious, it affects us without our knowledge. Usually, circumstances that recur in our lives and cause us to say “Why does this keep happening to me?” are sourced in the shadow side. We continue to participate in a particular cycle of behavior, making choices without fully understanding what is going on with us. This is because it is difficult to make changes when we don’t know what is truly motivating us. Decisions and actions that are made from a place of fear rarely serve us well.

Our primary fears also cause us to harshly judge ourselves and others. To cope with our fears, the shadow employs a technique known as “projection.” Projection occurs when we externalize the feelings of the shadow side and transfer them onto others. Projection is the preferred method of the shadow because we always face in others what we are unable to face in ourselves. When we are unduly critical of others, we are actually just manifesting our own feelings about ourselves. In fact, projection is the cause of much of our interpersonal difficulties.

The Other Side

There is another side to the Black Moon, however. Just as shadows cannot exist without light, the Black Moon also holds knowledge that is a great gift. Jung called this the “gold” that is contained in the shadow. Specifically, in addition to defining our shadow sides, the Black Moon also reveals:

- ∅ how we heal the shadow side and
- ∅ how we know true love.

The astrology of the Black Moon reveals the path to wholeness. We are shown the two halves of ourselves that we need to unite in order to become complete. When the shadow side is brought into consciousness, a rare degree of clarity is imparted. Knowing the way in which we hold ourselves back, and understanding the unconscious fears and motivations behind many of our responses, enables us to make effective changes in our lives. Empowered with the knowledge of this missing piece of information, we can make choices that are more aligned with what serves our highest and best. In the process, we heal and transcend our shadow sides.

But the astrology of the Black Moon goes one step farther. Since love is the strongest healing power of all and if the Black Moon gives us what we need to heal ourselves, it stands to reason that the Black Moon is intimately involved with love. In fact, love stories are entwined in the mythology and themes of the Black Moon. She not only teaches us how to love ourselves, but she also tells us how we know we are truly loved.

We will look closely at this element of the Black Moon in a later chapter, but it is important at this point to be aware of the fact that there are *two* sides to the Black Moon – *a dark side and a light side*. To begin our study, we will first examine the shadow side, but we must not become mired in an association only with her dark side. The Black Moon defies boundaries and restrictions and she always works on two levels – never just one. Tying this archetypal astrological energy solely to a darker explanation is misunderstanding its essence.

The Spiritual Nature of the Black Moon

The astrology of the Black Moon is also inherently spiritual. At a very deep level and from a spiritual or soul perspective, the Black Moon is the key area in the personality that reveals both our connection and disconnection with the Source of love and abundance in the universe. When we feel connected, life flows smoothly and we experience a sense of harmony and oneness. In contrast, the feeling of disconnection from our Source manifests in the form of our primary fear and lives in our shadow side.

The shadow is the ego's façade of personal power that is used to compensate for lack of faith in divine connection and fulfillment of desires through love of self and Source. It is an instinctual remnant of the unconscious human ego drive for survival and self-gratification, which blocks the pathway to self-realization and self-actualization. It is the

unconscious expression of the personality seeking dominance and protection in order to hide vulnerability.

All of this is controlled by the part of the brain that scientists have labeled the “old brain,” “reptilian brain,” or “R-complex.” The reptilian brain keeps us alive on the most primitive levels. The reptilian brain is responsible for feelings of rage and flight-or-flight responses that cause unpredictable behavior. It overrides normal, rational responses when we feel threatened in some way. When the primary fear of our shadow side is triggered, the reptilian brain engages and we react from an instinctual level.

Since we are reacting from our most primitive side, we usually *overreact*. When we respond from the perspective of fear, we set off a chain reaction of repetitive behavior. We initiate a cycle that we duplicate every time our primary fear is pushed. Generally, we become angry or passively aggressive and project our feelings onto someone else. We then invoke a poor coping skill to regain a sense of self-control and equilibrium. It is a process that keeps us stalled in a robotic and dysfunctional system of stimulus and response: “X” button gets pushed and “Y” reaction follows. This is not the way sentient beings should live.

To understand what is really going on, we need to examine the root cause of our primary fears. The answer is quite simple but takes time to fully integrate. Fear is the result of one basic thing: the feeling of separation from our spiritual source. *Fears are spiritual issues*. Incarnating as a physical being produces a by-product of feeling separated or cut off from All That Is or Oneness. The archetypal themes of the Black Moon reinforce this because the planet Tiamat itself was blown out of existence. As spiritual beings, we innately feel that we have lost this connection to Oneness because the density of our physical reality is profoundly different from our true nature. Most of us have forgotten that we are part of something much grander than ourselves and are never truly separate. When we drift from this truth and lose our way, our shadow side dominates and we engage the world from our darkest side.

But we can reconcile the shadow side and move back into a higher state of consciousness when we become intimately familiar with the Black Moon. We can learn which primary fear we manifest and the specific interpersonal issues that are related to it. As we work with this information, we learn to identify when we are reacting from the fear of our shadow side and transcend it by remembering that it is really a result of feeling disconnected from Source and is not an inherent flaw on our part. We can consciously re-wire our brains to overrule the reptilian brain when our fears are engaged. We can interrupt the circuit by choosing to

respond differently. In essence, we can transmute our “Inner Reptilian” into “Puff the Magic Dragon.” In the process, we evolve.



The astrology of the Black Moon is multi-dimensional and complex. In the following chapters, we will look at the Black Moon in each sign, in each house, in aspect, and throughout the transits. Though the journey with the Black Moon is one that takes us deeply into the underworld, in the process we will not only bring in the missing piece in astrology, but we will also find the missing piece of ourselves. We will complete the picture.

2

The Natal Black Moon in the Signs

When we discover the nature of our natal Black Moon, we have a face to face encounter with our shadow side. As a general rule, each of us is naturally averse to acknowledging our shadow side and, invariably, we wince or step back from it because it touches a nerve. It makes us feel intensely uncomfortable in a vague sort of way. Having our shadow exposed is a raw, vulnerable experience for many of us because the shadow side is deeply unconscious. It usually takes a little while for the revelations of the Black Moon to sink in.

Each of us has one primary fear that follows us through life and is a motivating factor in our actions and decisions. It is a companion that we *know* is there, but remains ever elusive. This fear is deeply rooted within the ancient part of our brains. As we discussed in the last chapter, the root cause of our primary fear is a feeling of separation from our Spiritual Source or feeling disconnected from something higher than ourselves.

The astrology of the Black Moon identifies this specific primary fear. The shadow side is merely the container for our primary fear, so when we face the shadow, we are really facing our primary fear. The Black Moon in each sign identifies certain personal issues that we carry and face on a regular basis. These issues form a large part of our personality and color our behavior, forming what could loosely be called our “downfall” in life. Our primary fears hold us back and prevent us from living our lives to the fullest. The Black Moon bestows the gift of this information to help us see through our self-sabotaging behavior and make changes that will free us from our self-imposed limitations.

As we begin to pull the shadow into the light, we also find that buried within it is the way in which we tend to judge ourselves. The shadow side is a harsh critic. It has the idea that we should be perfect and it causes us to have intensely negative feelings about ourselves. It sets a high standard that cannot realistically be met. However, when we become cognizant of these unconscious forces, they begin to have less influence over us because we can work through the shadow when we know what it is. Identifying it is the first step toward transcending it.

But until we become conscious of the issues that accompany our shadow side and the primary fear that is driving it, we unknowingly project these issues onto others. This is the shadow’s knee-jerk reaction when the primary fear is triggered. We voice judgment of others when in fact we are judging ourselves. Oftentimes, the shortcomings we identify

in others are the same shortcomings we ourselves possess but cannot accept. The astrology of the Black Moon helps us heal this disconnection by showing us the truth about ourselves.

Healing the shadow side begins with understanding the shadow side. First, we must face our primary fear by looking at it head on. We must integrate the understanding that the root cause of primary fear is a feeling of being separated or cut off from something greater than ourselves. As we look at the Black Moon in each sign, we will also consider what can be done on a practical basis to heal the chasm between our true nature and our shadow side and transcend it. (Note that the goals for each sign are sometimes written in the negative. This is chosen to make the information as concrete as possible.)

Black Moon in Aries

Theme: The Shadow of Success

Primary Fear: fear of unworthiness

Self-judgment: how well one performs or measures up

Issues: success; identity; questions about inherent value, self-esteem and merit

Projection: others' success and worthiness is based on what they have attained or accomplished

Goals: to not compare yourself to others; to not measure personal success by anyone else's standards, to value yourself as a unique expression of the Creator therefore creating self-esteem

Manifestation:

The Black Moon in Aries manifests in the intense quest to be valued and feel worthy. However, a deep-seated feeling of unworthiness is in conflict with this quest, often causing beneficial opportunities to be passed up. In life, we are only able to receive what we think we deserve, and when we feel undeserving, we will avoid or reject people, jobs, or options that we feel are too good for us. Self-sabotaging behavior often occurs with the Black Moon in Aries. There can also be a need to prove one's worthiness to others, even in the form of subtle bragging. The Black Moon in Aries staunchly defends itself and rejects anything that does not fall in line with its ideas and beliefs.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Aries, the belief in inherent unworthiness must be faced. Simply by virtue of being born, we are entitled to and worthy of

the joys of life. If All is One, then none are less than others. Each of us carries a spark of the Divine - none are excluded. Healing occurs when we are able to see ourselves as successful and worthy because we are a child of the Universe. When we recognize this, we understand that all other gauges are external and superficial. By holding ourselves in high regard, we naturally align with our highest and best.

- ∅ Examine where you have settled for less than you wished.
- ∅ Ask yourself what you would do if somehow, magically, a wand was waved and you were deemed worthy. Strive to connect with this vision.
- ∅ Ask yourself how much the *appearance* of success plays in your life.
- ∅ Ask yourself what you are always trying to win. When you discover the answer, decide if you really want it. Is it worth the effort? By practicing the awareness that you do not have to be the best in every situation, you will come to a natural state of internal balance.

Black Moon in Aries: Johnny Cash, Kurt Cobain, Albert Einstein, Elizabeth I, Mahatma Gandhi, Michael Jackson, Vladimir Lenin, John Lennon, Mary Queen of Scots, Joseph Stalin

Black Moon in Taurus

Theme: The Shadow of Security

Primary Fear: fear of scarcity

Self-judgment: how secure/safe one is by the level of comfort

Issues: having enough to feel safe; compulsive consumption; insecurities

Projection: tendency to criticize others for being lazy, irresponsible (especially with money), or unconventional

Goals: to not fill the void with “things,” to stretch beyond your comfort zone

Manifestation:

With Black Moon in Taurus, the more we have, the more comfortable we feel. In turn, the more comfortable we feel, the safer we think we are. With this placement, there is an intense need to feel comfortable because there is a generalized feeling of being unsafe in the world. The Black Moon in Taurus manifests in an almost insatiable desire to consume and accumulate possessions, money, or anything that makes us feel safe and

secure. However, no matter how much we acquire, it will never be enough because the void that we are trying to fill cannot be filled in this way. It may be filled momentarily, but the core feeling of insecurity will soon return. Oftentimes, the end result of this constant attempt to satisfy the fear of not having enough is the accumulation of debt, weight, or responsibilities – usually the exact things we are trying to avoid. With this placement of the Black Moon, there is an intense need to feel satisfied. Insecurities are held very deeply and there is tremendous fear of others knowing those insecurities.

Healing and Transcending:

The belief that the world is unsafe must be confronted. Integrating the idea that we have all that we need inside is what heals this shadow. When we build on who we really are inside, we no longer need to accumulate possessions to feel secure. When we accept that all is going according to a divine plan, we no longer need to fear the events of the world. No matter what, each of us always returns to our Source. This is the security that Black Moon in Taurus seeks.

- ∅ Cut back on whatever is filling the void. This will bring immediate discomfort and it will leave you with time on your hands. It is important to learn how to “not do” – to become comfortable with stillness. The next time you feel the need to take on more, buy more, or eat more, go and sit by yourself and put on some music, read, practice yoga or throttle down in some way. By practicing being still when you are most uncomfortable, you will be feeding your inner world and requiring less from the outer world.

Black Moon in Taurus: J.S. Bach, Patsy Cline, Howard Hughes, Abraham Lincoln, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Wilhelm Reich, Henry David Thoreau, Vincent van Gogh

Black Moon in Gemini

Theme: The Shadow of Acceptance

Primary Fear: fear of rejection

Self-judgment: how one compares to others

Issues: whether others approve or disapprove

Projection: labeling others as selfish; distaste for people who fail to do “the right thing”

Goals: to not care if people like or want you, to not compare yourself to others, to express your individuality

Manifestation:

Those of us with the Black Moon in Gemini are morbidly afraid of rejection. We are people pleasers, which often leaves us wondering what it is we ourselves like and dislike. This shadow manifests as a need to make decisions or act in accordance with whatever gains acceptance from others. It is damaging to the soul to pursue a life that others wish for us, as it comes at the expense of the expression of individual talents. Action based on or motivated by another leads to a suppression of the true self. It is a great disservice not to explore who we really are. It is also dangerous to “over-do” for others in hopes that they will like us; ultimately it leads to burn out. At the other end of the spectrum, this placement causes sudden and severe reactions to anything that hints at potential rejection, often causing serious challenges with relationships because we will reject someone before they can reject us. The Black Moon in Gemini will bail out too early or stay way too long.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Gemini, it is necessary to face the need for others’ approval. Each of us has something special to offer the world. What is important is not if others approve of us, but if *we* approve of ourselves. That sounds very cliché, but with Black Moon in Gemini we need to provide our own approval. *When you are able to consciously put yourself on the line to be rejected, intending that the outcome will not hinder your spirit, you will have regained the power that is trapped in the shadow side.* When the shadow is healed, rejection ceases to be an issue because inner acceptance has been achieved - creating a wealth of talent that is available to the world.

- ∅ Examine where you are not being self-“ish” or operating from your true self.
- ∅ When making decisions and planning your time and resources, ask yourself who you are doing it for. The answer should always be “for myself – for my highest and best which in turn serves the highest and best of everyone.” This doesn’t mean you are supposed to forget about others; it means that you put yourself into the equation. Healing this shadow requires vigilant monitoring of your time, energy, and money and how you spend them. It will quickly become apparent when your energy is scattered and whose approval you are seeking. By practicing making little decisions based on your own needs, you will integrate and balance *you* in relation to *others*.

Black Moon in Gemini: Marlon Brando, Adolf Hitler, Karl Marx, Frank Sinatra, Mark Twain

Black Moon in Cancer

Theme: The Shadow of Support

Primary Fear: fear of abandonment

Self-Judgment: how well one is supported; how much others do or give

Issues: dependency; co-dependency

Projection: tendency to dislike those we deem “needy”

Goals: to do things for ourselves, to not be dependent or “clingy”

Manifestation:

Black Moon in Cancer carries a pervasive feeling of being unable to take care of oneself. This shadow manifests in the need to manipulate situations so that one is dependent on others. In this way we are assured of not being alone. This distorted sense of support wreaks havoc on relationships, as others feel burdened or smothered. Many times with the Black Moon in Cancer we feel unappreciated for the things we do for others. The chronic feeling of not being supported halts personal growth, as personal needs are met by others, not by ourselves.

Healing and Transcending:

The dependence on others for support must be faced. We must provide our own support by not abandoning ourselves. This means taking care of and addressing our own needs. Action that is in favor of self-sufficiency is in order. Action that is undertaken for others should be unconditional. When the concept of Oneness is integrated, the idea of abandonment is no longer valid and relationships naturally equalize to a state of balance.

- ∅ Begin doing the things that you want others to do for you all by yourself. The next time you need something that you would normally ask another to provide for you, go ahead and get it yourself. Begin with small things but work your way up to major ones.
- ∅ Do something that you never would have done on your own. By practicing doing more for yourself you will balance the shadow that depends too heavily on others.
- ∅ Set up individual systems of support such as retirement funds or other accounts.

Black Moon in Cancer: Jimi Hendrix, Henry VIII, Janice Joplin, John F. Kennedy, Jr., Malcolm X

Black Moon in Leo

Theme: The Shadow of Order

Primary Fear: fear of change

Self-judgment: the level or station one has achieved

Issues: order; position; arrogance; self-centeredness; jealousy

Projection: distaste for or identification with overbearing, vain, or “selfish” people

Goals: to identify and vocalize others’ talents and strengths, to identify the opportunities presented by changes, to eliminate feeling jealous

Manifestation:

The Black Moon in Leo assaults the ego. It manifests in egocentricity and arrogance. With this placement we are frequently accused of being selfish. This is because our attention is naturally attracted to whatever reinforces our position in life. Any ideas to the contrary are quickly dismissed. The fear of change morphs into the fear of losing face or losing position. Rigid attempts to maintain the existing order, framework, or mindset are common and can lead to exhaustion.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Leo, the need for classification and designation must be faced. In truth, there is no hierarchy – All is One. Change is the nature of the Universe and change brings the opportunity for growth. We each have roles that we slip in and out of; the key is to fluidly take on positions and situations where we both lead and follow so that nothing remains static. It is also important to remember that, by definition, Divine Order is never threatened.

- ∅ Give to others. Black Moon in Leo has a tremendous capacity to uplift.
- ∅ When you encounter new situations, consider how you could empower someone else who is involved. How could you make them feel more important? Think about how you could give something of yourself to someone else.
- ∅ When you are with others, practice trying to discover something very special about them in that moment and then casually mention it.

- ∅ Try new things. By practicing changing the order of things, you are healing your shadow.

Black Moon in Leo: Princess Diana, Charles de Gaulle, Ernest Hemingway, Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe, Jim Morrison, Pablo Picasso, Elvis Presley, Christopher Reeve, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Leo Tolstoy

Black Moon in Virgo

Theme: The Shadow of Ability

Primary Fear: fear of failure

Self-judgment: how much one works, progresses, improves, or fixes

Issues: feelings of being inherently flawed; self-criticism

Projection: feeling that others are not performing well enough or are incompetent

Goals: to not focus on flaws or failures, to not do things to excess, to not feel responsible to fix everything

Manifestation:

Black Moon in Virgo finds flaws and then internalizes them. This shadow manifests in chronic dissatisfaction, particularly with oneself. With this placement, we often find it difficult to feel positive about ourselves for great lengths of time. All too soon, a generalized feeling of being “not good enough” creeps back in to maintain internal disequilibrium. Black Moon in Virgo constantly challenges our abilities and, in an effort to prove ourselves, we tend to maintain a very full schedule. We work very hard but can have trouble seeing the forest for the trees, as we operate under the spell of having to do more and more to prove to ourselves and others that we are not flawed. This shadow is the most adept at self-punishment.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Virgo, the need to find fault must be faced. A healthier state of mind is achieved when we recognize that nothing is absolute – there is no absolute right or wrong. All levels of ability have something to contribute. Healing this shadow requires understanding that flaws are an illusion. The crucial thing to understand is that when we have the Black Moon in Virgo, we interpret the feeling of separation from Spirit as somehow *our* fault. Everyone has the feeling of spiritual disconnection, but Black Moon in Virgo personalizes it. This is the root cause of why we feel flawed. To heal the shadow, we must accept that to

some degree, this feeling is merely a by-product of the physical experience of life.

- ∅ Examine where you feel you have failed. Upon closer inspection, what caused the “failure?” Was it really your fault? Was there really more you could have done or was it just not meant to be? Can you forgive yourself and others for not doing better?
- ∅ Can you walk away from “failures” and feel enriched simply by having had the experience? Time is the true test of what is, at the time, perceived to be a failure. By focusing on the experience as opposed to the outcome, the shadow of ability is healed.

Black Moon in Virgo: Alexander Graham Bell, Benazir Bhutto, Sigmund Freud, Galileo, George Washington

Black Moon in Libra

Theme: The Shadow of Perfection

Primary Fear: fear of loneliness/isolation

Self-judgment: personal “flaws” are harshly judged

Issues: perfection; unrealistic expectations; boundary issues

Projection: criticism of others, particularly the criticism of how things appear

Goals: to not have to have things be perfect, to be comfortable being alone, to see gray - not just black and white, to not be judgmental

Manifestation:

Black Moon in Libra values impeccability and holds everything and everyone to a high standard, especially oneself. This shadow involves pursuit of the “ideal” and keenly feels the separation from spirit. The Black Moon in Libra manifests in intense self-judgment and fragmentation of the self into pieces that are either acceptable or unacceptable. This shadow breaches boundaries and sorts through everything in an attempt to perfect it. It seeks excellence. This results in an unending series of disappointments and can form schisms in relationships. Maintaining any semblance of perfection is exhausting for anyone, but with the Black Moon in Libra, we often find ourselves complaining about being tired or not having enough time. Indecisiveness and self-deprivation are also characteristic of this shadow.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Libra, the need to judge must be faced. This shadow is strongly connected to the journey through the judgment of the Underworld and subsequent rebirth in a whole new way (see Chapter Five on the transits of the Black Moon). It is actually a journey to find what is truly of value. When we are able to see that love is truly the only thing of value, we find inclusion instead of separation. We begin to love all of the parts, not just some of them. When we understand that everything is connected, we see that the fear of separation is an illusion. Healing the shadow of perfection is about seeing our own (and others') inner perfection by allowing the "ideals" of the outer, material world to fall away.

- ∅ Assess your values. When you find yourself being critical of others, ask yourself if you dislike that same thing in yourself. Examine how you separate yourself from other people. Is there a need to keep some part of you distinct from others?
- ∅ When you find yourself being critical, find something valuable about the situation. You might not feel like certain things about you or others are perfect in appearance, but you may find that they are highly valuable in functionality. By practicing finding value, the shadow that believes in the idea of perfection is healed.

Black Moon in Libra: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Benito Mussolini, Tupac Shakur, Nikola Tesla

Black Moon in Scorpio

Theme: The Shadow of Death

Primary Fear: fear of loss

Self-judgment: based on what one has won

Issues: winning vs. losing; issues with death/endings

Projection: rescuing others

Goals: to not always have to win, to learn how to have closure, to not have to rescue, to not struggle so hard

Manifestation:

Black Moon in Scorpio will go to extreme lengths to save, assist, rescue, or win. This shadow's favorite prize is something that was *hard* won. The Black Moon in Scorpio manifests as a deep well of despair with desperate

attempts to climb out. We cling or attach to anything that stems the feeling of free-falling through life. Daily life is frequently viewed as a battle to win in order to stave off deepening feelings of loss. Sometimes even casual encounters are judged according to what was won or lost in the exchange. Black Moon in Scorpio is very strong energy that can cause intense levels of anxiety. We are especially attracted to people who are in need of assistance or who are “persecuted” in some way, as this is the preferred method to vicariously save ourselves.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Scorpio, the need to struggle must be faced. Nothing is ever really lost because there really is no death – only transformation into a new form. There is no need to plunge to the depths just to prove that we can win or to try to keep things from ending. Practicing the arts of gratitude and surrender is what facilitates the shift from the perspective of *loss* to the perspective of *love*. Material things fall away, but love endures forever.

- ∅ Become comfortable with losing. It is essential to let go of anything that you are overly attached to.
- ∅ Examine where you have invested most of your energy. Is it a losing battle? Instead of dealing with loss in an indirect way, consciously take action to give up. Imagine how relieved you would feel.
- ∅ Take steps to practice ending the smallest things (like phone calls) and work up to being able to step away from situations that cannot be saved (like dead end relationships). You may be surprised to find that something else was waiting all along - you just couldn't see it while you were busy running away from it. This is the nature of death or endings. They always precede rebirth and beginnings.

Black Moon in Scorpio: Winston Churchill, Emily Dickinson, John D. Rockefeller, Albert Schweitzer, Mother Teresa

Black Moon in Sagittarius

Theme: The Shadow of Truth

Primary Fear: fear of meaninglessness

Self-judgment: based on intentions and motivations

Issues: issues related to truth and honesty

Projection: distaste for people who lie or people who are naïve

Goals: to not have to have the ultimate answers, to tolerate the ordinary, to not always need “proof”

Manifestation:

The Black Moon in Sagittarius manifests in an intense relationship with the concept of “truth.” There is a great need to discern the superlative truth in all things, which causes a never ending sequence of questioning. More importantly, we need to *feel* like people are telling us the truth, as we do not automatically believe anything simply because it was said. Relationships can become stressed if our partners feel that they always have to prove that they are telling the truth. Themes of deception often play a role in our lives, perhaps as a victim of deception. Ongoing questions about not only our purpose in life, but *the purpose* of life characterize this shadow. Feelings of stagnation are not tolerated well.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Sagittarius, the need to continue searching must be faced. At some point, one must simply believe. Ultimately, all searching for the truth leads back to the truth that All is One. What is meaningful? Whatever we choose as meaningful is meaningful. This shadow is healed when we see that each of us has an interpretation of truth, which eliminates the need to find one superlative truth.

- ∅ Take up the mantle of responsibility for creating meaning in life. Meaningfulness is found by assessing what is truly important. What is meaningful to you? When you know the answers to this question, you will have created truth – the truth according to you. Devotion of your life to your own truth heals the shadow that never believes that truth really exists.

Black Moon in Sagittarius: Helena Blavatsky, Napoleon Bonaparte, Thomas Jefferson, Carl Jung, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jack London, Claude Monet, Ronald Reagan

Black Moon in Capricorn

Theme: The Shadow of Control

Primary Fear: fear of neglect/ not being acknowledged

Self-judgment: how well one stands out or apart

Issues: control issues; attention-seeking behavior

Projection: negative reaction to bossy, showy, or attention-seeking people; rebellion against being told what to do

Goals: to be comfortable when not in control, to stand up for yourself

Manifestation:

The Black Moon in Capricorn manifests as a need to control the course of events. When this shadow dominates, we have a tendency to be demanding. We can go to extreme efforts to gain attention. We have definite ideas about the way things should be and others often succumb to the force of our will. Frequently we refuse to give up until someone – anyone - acknowledges what we have to offer or agrees with what we think is best. A little bit of recognition goes a long way with us, but so does a little bit of neglect, and Black Moon in Capricorn has a long memory. But interpersonal relationships suffer when we wear down another's free will to come into compliance with our own. This results in lackluster relationships where the joyful spark of life becomes extinguished. We are very hard workers, but we can also expect a lot from others.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Capricorn, we need to examine what we are trying to control. We also need to give ourselves the recognition we seek. When we are able to do this, there is no longer a drive to ensure that others follow our wishes because we already have what we need.

- ∅ Examine where you need to have your way. Observe yourself carefully. Are you telling someone how, when, or what to do? Practice allowing others to go about tasks in their own way.
- ∅ Ask others what they would like to do and then do it. Enjoy the feeling of not being responsible for everything. Freedom, spontaneity, and a joyful feeling for life will return when the pressure to be a certain way is removed.

Black Moon in Capricorn: Leonardo da Vinci, Farrah Fawcett, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Machiavelli

Black Moon in Aquarius

Theme: The Shadow of Power

Primary Fear: fear of powerlessness

Self-judgment: based on the impact/power one has to get what one wants or needs

Issues: power issues; power struggles

Projection: distaste for weak or undisciplined people

Goals: to learn to ask for help, to not overpower others

Manifestation:

The Black Moon in Aquarius often manifests in a powerful sense of loneliness. Usually we are keenly aware of our intense personal power and are somewhat frightened by it. Our skills and aptitudes can border on genius, often giving us an air of considerable authority. We have strong faculties and diverse talents that can be used to uplift or to crush others. Black Moon in Aquarius is a force rivaled by few, and the temptation to dominate others can become an ongoing battle. It is simply all too easy to emotionally and intellectually overpower others. Ethical concerns can arise, as we are prone to test our limitations. In situations where we feel powerless, we tend to isolate ourselves so no one will see our “weakness.” This self-imposed prison is rife with internal brutality, as we tend to unleash cruel criticism on ourselves for not being stronger.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Aquarius, the tendency to overpower others must be faced. When we recognize that we are all connected, there is no need for anyone to overpower another. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses that fluctuate and change over time. The extra boost of power that accompanies Black Moon in Aquarius can be re-routed back into the collective of humanity in the form of brilliant ideas and creations that uplift the whole. A channel or outlet for this power is what is needed to keep it from blowing up. When the focus shifts to sharing power, all benefit.

- ∅ Examine if you abuse your power by neglecting or criticizing others. Do you take advantage of others, however unwittingly? Or do you neglect, criticize, or overextend yourself?
- ∅ Ask yourself what you would do with all of your power. It is very important for you to answer this question. Are you more afraid of your power or your powerlessness? Discerning the parameters of personal power is what heals this shadow.

Black Moon in Aquarius: Robert Oppenheimer, Ludwig van Beethoven

Black Moon in Pisces

Theme: The Shadow of Trust

Primary Fear: fear of vulnerability

Self-judgment: based on how stable one's emotions are

Issues: trust issues

Projection: distrust of people who are “too nice” because they must want something

Goals: to let down your walls with the appropriate people, to be able to discern who is appropriate for you, to focus on self as much as others

Manifestation:

The Black Moon in Pisces is tender-hearted. We are afraid that if others discover this, they will use it against us. There is a tendency to judge people and situations based on the potential of being hurt. We may find it difficult to be open or fully intimate with others. It is often hard to trust others and we test them until we feel safe. This shadow can show up overtly (in unmistakable emotional walls) but it can also show up subtly (appearing on the surface to be very open, but upon closer inspection having definite commitment issues). On the flip side, we can also make commitments before trust is gained. By prematurely trusting, we face betrayal or disappointment. In this way, a vague sense of safety is maintained since a deeper sense of intimacy is never attained. The sense of being separated from Spirit is acute with Black Moon in Pisces and the intense desire to not be present in the “here and now” can lead to emotional addictions, addiction to substances, or escaping our own issues through focusing on others.

Healing and Transcending:

With the Black Moon in Pisces, the need to put up a wall of protection must be faced. The truth is, life can be painful and people hurt us whether they intend to or not. We need to learn to trust the people we know we can trust. Usually this is the person we are with the most, but proportionately open up to the least. We tend to hold ourselves back, but this is a crime against our souls because we are naturally closest to Spirit and have much to share with others. Our shadow is healed when we trust that we are strong enough to withstand any offense.

- ∅ Ask yourself when you feel most vulnerable. In what situations do you cross your arms and cover your chest? How do you cover up or cover over who you really are?

- ∅ Consider who you physically, intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally open up to the most? It is important to look at the level of trust you have in the people around you and honestly assess if your trust is well-placed. Balancing the shadow of trust is just as much about not placing trust in the people that you know you shouldn't as it is about allowing someone else see who you really are.

Black Moon in Pisces: Gerald Ford, Judy Garland

3

Natal Black Moon in the Houses

The house in which a natal Black Moon is located enables us to pinpoint how the shadow will manifest in our lives. The house placement shows the context in which the shadow issues will predominately play out. Essentially, the natal home of the Black Moon shows the area of life where the shadow is deeply ingrained and where we will face our greatest, persistent challenges in life.

However, true to the Black Moon's dualistic nature, she also brings a great gift to this area of life.

Black Moon in the 1st House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are deeply related to how we feel about ourselves. The shadow side is ingrained in how we use our personal energy, what motivates us and our sense of overall well-being. Personal appearance or the way we appear to others is often a major concern. If the shadow is heavily in control, our behavior patterns will strongly reflect it. This placement of the Black Moon is intensely personal and our shadow issues will have a dramatic impact on our lives.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is the vast amount of personal energy at our disposal. This level of energy can produce fantastic healers and immensely creative individuals. We can accomplish monumental feats and have an uncanny ability to turn "negatives" into "positives."

Black Moon in the 2nd House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are deeply related to how secure we feel. Financial considerations seem to plague us. The shadow side blurs the lines between emotional needs and material/financial needs; attitudes toward partners can hinge on security issues. The shadow side is ingrained in our value systems, which can at times seem at odds with our behavior.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is the generous, comfortable feeling we engender in others, resulting in many meaningful, lasting interpersonal relationships. People truly enjoy being with us, finding us not only charming but disarming.

Black Moon in the 3rd House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are deeply related to self-expression. The shadow side is ingrained in rigid attitudes and strong opinions that can cause us an endless amount of trouble. At times there is overwhelming confusion about the direction we want to take in life. Early life has a more pronounced effect on us than others. The outgrowths of childhood weave their way through later life in the most resolute ways. Issues with siblings can linger throughout adulthood.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is our uncanny, exacting powers of observation and communication. These talents can be applied in a multitude of ways. Also, our accuracy in perceiving situations gives us a definite advantage in life.

Black Moon in the 4th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to our foundation and sense of home. The shadow is ingrained with an over-identification with home and much effort is devoted to cultivating a feeling of belonging. With this placement, relationships with parents (particularly the mother) are often difficult, especially if our parents did not provide a strong home. There is a tendency to be stuck in the past and/or unable to forgive and forget.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is the ability to not only be sensitive to, but accommodate other people's needs. If we truly trust someone, we will provide whatever is necessary to make that person happy, making us exceptional partners.

Black Moon in the 5th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to the ability to truly enjoy life. This shadow is ingrained in pursuing, but having difficulty finding, pleasure. We are prone to take risks in order to feel stimulated. Issues with the father are found with this placement. The father may have been absent or neglectful, especially if Saturn is prominent. This shadow side may also center on children, either wanting children and not having them or not taking care of one's children.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is resiliency. No matter how disappointed we become, we are rarely down for long. We are excellent problem solvers and leaders. We adapt well to changes and can fluidly change course in mid-stride.

Black Moon in the 6th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to health and work. At times there can be problems with co-workers, particularly regarding perceptions of our work performance. The shadow side is ingrained in the level of self-discipline we have. We may be accused of being disorganized. There is also a tendency to vacillate between ignoring our body and focusing too much on it, leading to concerns over health.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is a keen insight into the interrelatedness of things. We often hold a warehouse of information that others find helpful.

Black Moon in the 7th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to partnerships and commitment. This shadow side is urgently motivated to seek mutually-fulfilling relationships, which are often elusive. Also, other people find ways to take advantage of us, sometimes to the point of betrayal. Many times life seems unfair to us and others would probably agree. In the midst of this, there can also be issues of dependence or neediness.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is our ability to perceive and create beauty from the smallest things. Innately tuned toward balance, we easily see what is missing and then endeavor to rectify the situation. This is a very valuable skill that can be translated into many different applications.

Black Moon in the 8th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to death, inheritance, investments, and sex. This is the most difficult house placement for the Black Moon. The shadow side is ingrained in loss; in fact, we may feel that our lives lead only to loss. With Black Moon in the eighth house, chronic anxiety may be present.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is our great depth of compassion and ability to see beyond the surface. We quickly ascertain people's true motivations. Our wisdom and insight is a great benefit to those with whom we are close.

Black Moon in the 9th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to our outlook or philosophy in life, religion, spirituality, higher learning, the law,

and the world at large. This shadow is deeply concerned with issues of morality. We hold strong opinions, often leading to conflicts with others. There is a tendency to feel disconnected from others or from ourselves. We may even feel compelled to isolate ourselves from the world around us.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is a keen intellect that we are able to translate into many fields of interest. Our knowledge encompasses a wide spectrum, affording us the ability to relate to many different people, should we so desire.

Black Moon in the 10th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to ambition, authority, social status, and responsibility. Tradition and family obligations are important us. This shadow is ingrained in a sense of duty and high aspirations, and we closely monitor our progress in the world as compared to others. We hold high standards and expectations, which can cause interpersonal difficulties if we demand too much from others.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is our ability to persevere. We are hard workers who take more than our share of any load. When we give our word, we do everything in our power to keep it.

Black Moon in the 11th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to our hopes, wishes, and dreams. The shadow is concerned with how we fit into the collective of humanity. Issues of the “self versus others” follow us and we may find that we are often accused of being selfish or self-centered. Change is usually difficult for us to handle.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is the ability to bring people together. We are natural networkers. We are also interesting people to be around and are true innovators.

Black Moon in the 12th House

Challenges: The greatest challenges of the shadow are related to unconscious motivations, addictions, institutions, and enemies. The shadow is deeply ingrained in anything that is hidden. By its very nature, the Black Moon is hidden, making this placement difficult to understand. There is often a side to us that is unknown to most people. We may have

a degree of emotional suffering that is not evident to others until they get to know us.

Gift: The gift of the shadow is our ability to empathize with others. We seem to easily give to others that which we may not be able to give to ourselves. We are complex people who can handle complex tasks and material with aplomb.

4

The Natal Black Moon in Aspect

Interestingly, the Black Moon is only in effect if it is in conjunction or opposition to a planet. I have never found that squares, trines, sextiles, and quincunxes apply with the Black Moon. I believe this is because shadows only form on direct lines, not on angles. Additionally, regardless of whether the aspect is a conjunction or an opposition, the application is the same. The only real difference is the degree of impact. The conjunction is more pronounced than the opposition.

This chapter will explore conjunctions and oppositions of the Black Moon within the natal chart. An orb of three degrees is recommended. With the exception of a conjunction to Venus, when the Black Moon is conjunct or in opposition to a planet in a natal chart, it casts a shadow on that planet. The energetic influence of the Black Moon places stress on the planet, disempowering it to some degree. The totality of the chart should always be kept in mind, but as a general rule, conjunctions and oppositions of the natal Black Moon strain and weigh down the other planet.

However, once the core fear of the natal Black Moon is recognized and we begin to heal the shadow side, the affected planet is “freed” from its influence and becomes an even more powerful influence in the chart. In a sense, the affected planet is reborn. For example, a natal Black Moon – Sun conjunction in Gemini will cause a great deal of suffering in a person’s life because he will always seek the approval and acceptance of others instead of following through on his own desires. When he recognizes that the core fear of his shadow is the fear of rejection and then takes steps to make choices for him instead of others, the power of his natal Sun will “explode” and he will rise to great heights.

Black Moon Conjunct North Node

Until the core fear of the Black Moon is recognized, we will have substantial difficulty identifying our life’s path. Most astrologers take the view that the lessons of the South Node must be integrated before we can activate the North Node, and this is even more important when the Black Moon conjuncts or opposes the North Node. These aspects also indicate a strong tendency toward self-sabotage. As we begin to heal our shadow side, we begin to realign with our destiny.

Black Moon Conjunct South Node

With this aspect, significant past life issues have returned this lifetime to be resolved. This aspect indicates that the primary fear of the shadow has become a dominant feature of the personality and is inhibiting our evolution. When the Black Moon and the South Node conjunct or oppose, it is harder for us to see our downfall in life and the issues related to our Black Moon. These patterns are deeply entrenched and take more effort to understand. As we begin to heal our shadow side and rectify past life cycles of behavior, we are free to move forward in a positive way.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Sun

With these aspects, a shadow is cast over our ability to express ourselves and actualize our potential. We may suffer from a persistent lack of personal energy or chronic depression and may also experience health afflictions, particularly if the placement is within the sixth house. We may feel that we are caught in a cycle of continual starts and stops, often finding it difficult to progress in life. The natal conjunction of the Black Moon and the Sun is the most difficult aspect of the Black Moon and can indicate a higher potential for suicidal ideation, especially when the transiting Black Moon returns to this position. As we begin to heal our shadow side, we experience intense feelings of liberation and rebirth, almost as if we are a new person.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Moon

While it may seem intuitive that a natal conjunction or opposition of the Moon and the Black Moon would serve to balance the personal shadow, this is not the case. This aspect indicates an impaired ability to identify and express emotions. Our emotional nature is amplified and our ability to cope with emotions can be impaired. This aspect creates a volatility that makes interpersonal relationships challenging. We experience primary fear more vividly than others, which can sometimes lead to phobias. As we begin to heal our shadow side, we may need additional help learning how to effectively manage our emotional lives. But once we have the tools we need to cope with our feelings, we experience healthy, joyful relationships.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Mercury

When the Black Moon aspects Mercury we have trouble understanding the causal effect of our actions, which can hinder our careers and

relationships. We may also feel that no one understands us or that we are never able to effectively communicate our intentions, ideas and feelings. Ever misunderstood, we sometimes have trouble accepting responsibility for our actions or identifying what role we play in situations. Errors in judgment are common. As we begin to heal our shadow side, we experience a distinct ease and increased clarity about life.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Venus

The natal conjunction of the Black Moon and Venus is the only aspect that truly moderates the Black Moon. The natal conjunction of the Black Moon and Venus is the reunification of the dual nature of the personality. Light and dark are equalized relative to the proximity of the conjunction. We experience a higher degree of balance in our interpersonal relationships and the primary fear is usually not a major hindrance in life.

The natal opposition of the Black Moon and Venus is another matter. Relationship difficulties often plague this aspect. With this placement, we usually have a string of significant relationships during our lifetime. We do not have trouble finding partners; *maintaining* relationships is the issue. With this aspect we struggle with balancing ourselves in relation to others. There is a heightened potential to be involved in love triangles, as we may feel our needs are not being met by our partner. Financial strains in life may also be indicated. As we begin to heal our shadow side, satisfying relationships and stabilized financial situations result.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Mars

Natal conjunction or opposition between the Black Moon and Mars denotes that we may have trouble controlling our temper or curbing aggression. Instead of inhibiting these tendencies, the Black Moon magnifies them. With this aspect it is hard to contain our emotions, making us somewhat unpredictable. Impulsivity is something we may battle. As we begin to heal the shadow side, we learn to think before we act, making an easier time for ourselves and everyone else. Tempers rarely mellow completely with this aspect, but we do learn to temper our hair-trigger responses.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Jupiter

The natal conjunction or opposition of the Black Moon and Jupiter causes our shadow side to dominate our personality. The primary fear of the natal Black Moon is exacerbated with Jupiter. Jupiter represents the abundance one is willing to accept and the Black Moon in conjunction or opposition to Jupiter is a hindrance to this. The shadow can spread widely over us, limiting our opportunities. This aspect can also indicate a difficult childhood. As we begin to heal the shadow side, a path is cleared for new possibilities to enter.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Saturn

The conjunction or opposition of the Black Moon and Saturn causes difficulty with our ability to structure our lives the way we would like. We struggle with the self-discipline that is needed to achieve our goals. We are very often aware of this deficit and try hard to remedy the problem. It seems we are our own worst enemies, berating ourselves for our perceived failures. We frequently feel that things are always falling apart for us. As we begin to heal the shadow side, our shadow falls away more quickly than it does with other planets. I believe this is due to the fact that we have already taken ourselves so far down that any relief feels like a great release.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Chiron

The conjunction or opposition of the Black Moon and Chiron often poses a lifetime of painful experiences. This aspect almost demands that we sacrifice ourselves for others, leading us to walk through life with a deep wound that restricts our personal growth. This aspect is similar to that of the Black Moon and the Sun, in that it can indicate pervasive suicidal thoughts, thoughts that everyone would be better off if we were dead, or the desire for release from worldly problems. As we begin to heal our shadow side, a completely new perspective and experience of life is possible. We experience palpable rewards from engaging in work with the shadow.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Uranus

With a conjunction or opposition of the Black Moon and Uranus we continually find ourselves changing our lives in dramatic ways. We may struggle to find our place in the world. Inner peace seems to elude us, as we are always engaged in one thing or another. It is difficult for us to

relax and live in the present. We are good at creating upheaval for ourselves, which constantly keeps us off balance. As we begin to heal our shadow sides, we are free to revolutionize our outlook on life without needing to physically change everything about our lives.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Neptune

Generalized confusion about the reality of our life is experienced with the conjunction or opposition of the Black Moon and Neptune. We do not feel like we belong. It is very easy for us to become lost in his our own world, estranged from others. We tend to experience frustration in life and may find it difficult to manifest our ideas or plans. There is also a heightened potential for self-deception. By its nature, Neptune is intangible; coupled with the Black Moon, pinpointing exactly how the shadow side affects us can be challenging. Once the shadow side and the primary fear are identified and recognized, we are able to channel strong energy into creating a life full of beauty.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Pluto

With the conjunction or opposition of the Black Moon to Pluto we seem to be excluded from a general lightness of being. In essence, our serious natures are the result of the dual influence of the Underworld (see Chapter 5). We seem to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders. For us, our generation's mission is deeply ingrained into our psyches and our decisions about our lives follow the purpose of this mission. We take our responsibilities extremely seriously. After the primary fear of the shadow is recognized, we are able to integrate a much-needed sense of ease into our lives.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Eris

The conjunction or opposition of the natal Black Moon with the planet Eris indicates a life as a leader, with the associated burdens and responsibilities of leadership. The mythology of the Black Moon is very important for those with this aspect to understand (see Chapter 5). People born between October 6-23, 2011 (with the conjunction of the Black Moon and Eris) and March 11-28, 2016 (with the opposition of the Black Moon and Eris) will transform the world. Once the core fear is recognized and overcome, they will be unstoppable in whatever they choose to do (look to the house placement for an indication of the area of

life in which they will blaze a trail). Weddings that occur during these times will receive a special blessing.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Ascendant/Descendant

Conjunctions and oppositions between the natal Black Moon and the Ascendant or Descendant indicate that we personify the archetypal energy of the Black Moon (see Chapter 5). Our lives cycle between dramatic periods of destruction and rebirth. We experience an enormous amount of growth during this lifetime. But it is not easy on us. If we are able to recognize that this is our life pattern and learn to flow with the changes, we actually come to appreciate the fact that we lead interesting lives.

Black Moon Conjunct/Oppose Imum Coeli /Medium Coeli

Conjunction and opposition to the IC and MC pose special challenges for us. More effort is required on our part to achieve our goals and actualize our potential. As chronic late-bloomers, we may need additional time to determine career paths. We enter adulthood more slowly than others. As we begin to heal our shadow side, the effort that is spent in states of inertia can be redirected toward forward motion.

5

Transits of the Black Moon

The transits of the Black Moon are among the most dramatic and intense transits in astrology. We can use knowledge of the Black Moon's cycle to understand the nature and timing of the transformational crises and processes of death and rebirth that we will undergo when transits of the Black Moon are underway. We can even determine the date when these crises and processes will abate because the Black Moon is precise in its timing and reliability. Knowing when the event will be over is often the light at the end of the tunnel when we are struggling with the transit.

The Cycle of the Black Moon

Again, the Black Moon only operates in aspect of conjunction or opposition to a planet because shadows only form on direct angles. *There are two parts to the cycle of a Black Moon transit: the approach to a planet and the exact contact with a planet.* There are *always* two sides to any transit of the Black Moon. First she breaks down the old and then she rebuilds the new.

1-Approach of the Black Moon (death/degeneration)

As the Black Moon approaches within three degrees of conjunction or opposition to a planet, she begins to purge us of grief and worn out beliefs related to the transiting planet. This process continues for approximately one month – the time it takes the Black Moon to move three degrees. Depending on the planet involved, this month can feel like a descent into the Underworld because we struggle while the old, restrictive patterns and beliefs are being broken down.

2-Exact Contact of the Black Moon (rebirth/regeneration)

When the Black Moon makes the exact conjunction or opposition to a planet, the other side of the Black Moon comes into effect, bringing rebirth and renewal to the issue involved with the planet. We emerge from the Underworld, breaking free and experiencing a refreshing revision of the issues involved.

The Mythology of the Black Moon

To properly understand the way in which the transits of the Black Moon operate, it is important to look at the mythology that expresses her themes of death and rebirth. Mythology inspires astrology, breathing life into it from the archetypal realm. The ancients recognized patterns in human behavior and they embedded truth within the layers of mythical stories in order pass on knowledge. *The Descent of Inanna*, an ancient Sumerian myth, encapsulates the archetypal story of the transits of the Black Moon. It is a story of the search for wisdom, a descent into the deep abyss of the unconscious, and a return to wholeness. This myth is actually an earlier form of the more widely known myth of Persephone, Pluto, and Demeter and the cycle of the seasons.

The Descent of Inanna

The Descent of Inanna opens during the balsamic phase of the Moon with Inanna, the Shining Queen of Heaven and Goddess of Love and War, receiving a mysterious gift of truth that she does not fully understand. She knows of the ancient texts that say witnessing the funeral rites of the King of the Underworld bestows special knowledge – knowledge that may help her understand the gift she has been given. By a twist of fate, Nergal, the King of the Underworld, has just died, leaving her sister, Ereshkigal, the Queen of the Underworld, a widow. Inanna recognizes her opportunity and decides to travel to the underworld to learn the secrets of her sister’s dark domain.

But journeys to the Underworld are prohibited by the Laws of the Gods, so Inanna uses the excuse of wanting to visit her grieving sister. She knows that traveling through the gates of the Great Below will be treacherous, even deadly, so she collects the things she thinks will protect her the most: the seven *me* (Tablets of Destiny or Spiritual Laws), a crown, a double strand of beaded necklaces, an exquisite gown, kohl for her eyes, a breastplate, lapis earrings, and a measuring rod and line. She gives special instructions to her loyal handmaiden, Ninshubar, the former Queen of the East. Inanna tells her if she has not returned from the underworld in three days, Ninshubar is to clothe herself in rags, make cuts on her legs and run to the gods, begging them one by one to rescue her.

Leaving her Seven Cities behind, Inanna departs for the Underworld and soon comes to the first gate. She demands entry.

“Why has your heart led you on the road to the East, from which no traveler returns?” Neti, the Chief Gatekeeper, asks.

“Because...of my older sister Ereshkigal,” Inanna answers.

Suspicious of her intentions, Neti tells Inanna to wait while he delivers her request to the Queen. He rushes to Ereshkigal's chamber, reporting that Inanna has arrived at the first gate in possession of the seven *me* and other objects of power. Ereshkigal is angered by this turn of events. The two sisters have never been close and she wonders why the Goddess of Love has come to mock her in her time of greatest pain. She directs Neti to bolt the Seven Gates of the Underworld and remove one of Inanna's treasures at each gate. "Let the Holy Priestess of Heaven enter bowed low," she declares.

Obligingly, Neti opens the first gate, allowing Inanna to enter. He then removes the crown from her head.

"What is this?" Inanna demands.

"Quiet, Inanna. The ways of the Underworld are perfect. They may not be questioned," Neti responds, closely watching Inanna's reaction. Inanna continues her protests and Neti repeats his words, removing one of her possessions at each gate.

When Inanna finally arrives at the last gate of the Underworld, she learns that her destination is the place where final judgment is passed. Standing naked before the Court of the Underworld, Inanna is quickly found guilty of violating the Law of the Gods which prohibited her journey. Ereshkigal, Queen of the Underworld, inflicts the sentence. With one deadly blow, she strikes Inanna across the face. She then hangs Inanna's lifeless corpse from a hook on the wall.

Three dark nights of the Moon pass and Inanna does not return. Her faithful handmaiden Ninshubur carries out Inanna's orders, donning rags, cutting herself, and pleading with the gods to save her queen. Neither Enlil, Inanna's father, nor Anu, Inanna's grandfather, grants her wish. "Inanna got what she deserved," they say.

With little hope remaining, Ninshubar turns to Enki, the father of Inanna's mother, who is grieved to learn the news of his granddaughter's demise. Enki fashions two creatures, the Kurgarra and the Galatur, to go into the Underworld and rescue her. He gives the creatures the Food and Water of Life and tells them that they will find the Queen of the Underworld writhing in pain, as if laboring in childbirth. Enki instructs them to repeat whatever words she says when she cries out. He tells them she will be so relieved to have them recognize her pain that she will offer them great gifts. When she does, he tells them to refuse her gifts and ask for only one thing in return.

Enki then transforms the Kurgarra and the Galatur into flies so they can enter the Underworld undetected. After they shift back into their forms, they find Queen Ereshkigal, who indeed is in great pain.

“Oh! My inside!” she moans.

“Oh! Your inside!” the creatures echo.

“Ohhhh! My outside!” she continues.

“Ohhhh! Your outside!” they repeat.

This continues as Ereshkigal reports all of her woes to the creatures, who in turn acknowledge her pain and grief. Because she is so grateful, she offers them many gifts, each of which they refuse. The creatures tell her they wish only one thing: the corpse that hangs from the hook on the wall. Ereshkigal is surprised and tells them she cannot grant their wish. They tell her this is the only thing they will accept. Finally, with a dismissive wave of her hand, she grants their wish. The creatures quickly sprinkle Inanna’s body with the Food and Water of Life that they brought with them and Inanna is reborn.

Fully restored to life, Inanna travels back to the Upperworld, accompanied by the creatures. Ninshubur and Inanna’s sons weep with joy that she has returned alive and well. But the celebration is interrupted when the creatures tell Inanna that no one returns from the Underworld without paying a price. Someone must take her place. They ask for her loyal handmaiden, but Inanna cannot part with her. They ask for each of her sons, but she cannot part with them either.

At this point, Inanna notices that her husband, Dumuzi, is not at her homecoming celebration. The creatures follow her as she scours the palace in search of him. She finds Dumuzi sitting on his throne, finely dressed, and seemingly oblivious to her prolonged absence. He has obviously fared well while she was dead. She turns coldly to the creatures and utters a single command. “Take him.”

Dumuzi flees the palace before the Kurgarra and the Galatur can seize him, escaping to the land of the god Utu, a sorcerer. Utu changes Dumuzi into a snake so that he can hide from the creatures, but they find him nonetheless. Utu then transforms him into a gazelle so that he can outrun them, but they catch him nonetheless. As they prepare to take him to the Underworld, Dumuzi’s sister, Geshtinanna, intervenes, in an effort to protect him. The creatures capture and torture her for her interference. Mourning for her brother, Geshtinanna cries out that she will not let her brother go into the Underworld alone. She will share his fate.

Queen Inanna is moved by Geshtinanna's outpouring of love and self-sacrifice. She proposes an alternative to the creatures. "Let Dumuzi and Geshtinanna each spend half of the year in the Underworld and half of the year in the Upperworld," she suggests.

The Kurgarra and the Galatur agree to the offer and carry Dumuzi off as Inanna's replacement in the Underworld. Fully understanding the great gift of truth she was given, Inanna returns to her throne a wiser and stronger queen.

Understanding the Transit of the Black Moon

The Inner Journey

Inanna's journey is the inner journey to face her shadow side. The same is true of a transit of the Black Moon. The myth is an allegory for what happens when the Black Moon transits a planet, especially the natal Sun, Black Moon, or Chiron. The Underworld is symbolic of the unconscious realm into which Inanna descends to undergo not only initiation, but also reunion with the missing part of herself that resides there. This missing part is represented by her sister, Ereshkigal, who is set up as Inanna's nemesis and who proffers her downfall. But Ereshkigal is actually the part of Inanna that has been disconnected. Ereshkigal is the forgotten queen who has been isolated from the other gods and goddesses. She is rife with grief, misery, and loneliness. Ereshkigal's domain, the Underworld (our unconscious), is where hidden knowledge and spiritual connection is held. Inanna's journey is our journey. She encounters the Underworld to retrieve what is missing just as we encounter the Black Moon to retrieve what we are missing. Inanna isn't whole until she does this, and as we aren't whole if we don't do the same.

Truth and Consequences

Just as the myth opens with Inanna receiving a gift of truth that she doesn't quite understand, a transit of the Black Moon is often initiated by an upsetting or confusing event or a dramatically changed disposition. This is what prompts the cycle of death of the old self and rebirth of a new self. Many times, we recognize a personal weakness or something we did not want to face. Painful self-reflection ensues and we enter a period of downward spiral. All of this follows the cycle of the transit.

There is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide when it is time for a transit of the Black Moon. This element of the story is expressed with the character Dumuzi, who learns this after the god Utu transforms him into

a snake and then a gazelle in order to hide him from the creatures. Dumuzi finds that he cannot outrun his fate. The same is true of the Black Moon's transits. If there is something that needs to be transformed and healed within us, it will occur under these transits.

Spiritual Surrender

In the myth, Inanna takes all of the possessions that she thinks she needs, but the most important are the 7 *me* - the Tablets of Spiritual Laws. This part of the myth tells us that we already have everything that we need on this journey— spiritual connection. The possessions that Inanna takes with her are removed because they are material. Only Spiritual Laws remain with us during a Black Moon transit. Physical and material accomplishments and acquisitions are meaningless because this transit is a process to uncover who we really are at our core. It is an internal activity. The Spiritual Law that tells us that we are connected to something greater than ourselves (which ultimately brings about the spiritual evolution of all consciousness) is sometimes the only thing that helps people cope with the most difficult transits of the Black Moon, such as the transits to the Sun, Black Moon, and Chiron. The Spiritual Law of Surrender is the only advice one can give during this transit. As Neti the Gatekeeper says, the ways of the Underworld are perfect and cannot be questioned. *We must surrender and accept what is happening to us, knowing that the process will come to an end and we will come out better than we were.*

Initiation

The longer we work with the Black Moon, the easier it becomes to see other people's shadows and how the transits of the Black Moon are affecting them. We recognize how people are undergoing a face to face meeting – an initiation - with the shadow.

An often overlooked character in the myth is Ninshubar, Inanna's handmaiden. We are told that Ninshubar is the former Queen of the East. The East is the traditional direction of initiation. One of the roles astrologers can play for others is the role of Ninshubar. Ninshubar holds the knowledge of Inanna's journey and while she does not "save" Inanna, she does initiate the resources Inanna needs for rebirth. People who have worked with their own shadows and hold the knowledge of the Black Moon can relate to others how the Black Moon's transits are trying to transform them.

Mirroring

To some degree, people who are familiar with the Black Moon can also play the roles of the Kurgarra and the Galatur. These are the creatures that descend into the Underworld and echo Ereshkigal's grief back to her. They find her writhing in pain, "as if in childbirth." When we understand the nature of the Black Moon transits, we can affirm to others that their suffering is indeed real. We can explain that it is like they are in the labor of childbirth – labor to birth a new version of themselves. And, just like childbirth, it will come to an end. This is vital information for anyone who is experiencing a difficult transit of the Black Moon.

Seasons of Death and Rebirth

The Black Moon's themes of death and rebirth are reiterated when Dumuzi and his sister, Geshtinanna, replace Inanna in the Underworld. During one half of the year, Dumuzi resides in the Underworld and during the other half of the year, Geshtinanna takes his place. This is an earlier version of the myth of Pluto, Persephone, and Demeter and the origin of the seasons. In the younger version of the story, the maiden Persephone is abducted and taken down into the Underworld by Pluto. She cannot leave because she has eaten the Fruit of the Underworld. Her mother, Demeter (Mother Nature), is devastated. While Demeter is in mourning, nothing will grow upon the earth. The gods intervene and decree that Persephone will spend half of the year in the Underworld with Pluto and half of the year in the Upperworld with Demeter. While Persephone is in the Upperworld, during Spring and Summer, Demeter is happy. Flowers bloom, crops grow, and animals are abundant. When Persephone is in the Underworld, during Fall and Winter, Demeter is sad. Trees lose their leaves, snow falls, and animals hibernate. The cycle of life continues with Persephone's return (rebirth) in Spring. The myths tell us that "to everything there is a season." In turn, the transits of the Black Moon promise regeneration after degeneration- without exception. Just as Spring returns after Winter, revitalization occurs after the Black Moon passes.

Judgment

Inanna undergoes Final Judgment by the gods after she passes through the last gate to the Underworld. During the transit of the Black Moon, we undergo judgment not of gods but of ourselves. Self-judgment is a key element of self-reflection; transformation is not complete until a change

occurs. We change during transits of the Black Moon because it is her nature to destroy anything that is static.

The Transits

As the Black Moon transits a natal planet, the core issues of the natal Black Moon will always re-surface in relation to the planet being affected. This section discusses the conjunctions and oppositions of the transiting Black Moon to the natal planets.

Midpoints

The Black Moon seems to have almost as much of an effect when she transits midpoints as she does when she transits a planet. This may be because there isn't anything physically located at a midpoint, only a convergence of energy – just like the Black Moon herself. If an exact opposition or conjunction is not occurring but events are indicative of such transits, check the midpoints.

Transiting Black Moon - Natal Black Moon

The return of the transiting Black Moon to its natal position in the chart is a time when the shadow powerfully emerges from relative hiding. During this time, events in our lives and our reactions to those events push our primary fears front and center. The shadow is easiest to see during this transit. Oftentimes we are illogical and may even be irrational.

Remember that our primary fears are *primal*. They are deep-seated and enmeshed with our most basic instincts for survival. When the Black Moon returns to its natal position, we can become beasts because we are inclined to project our shadow onto others. This is a time, more than any other, when we need to step back and watch ourselves closely. We need to observe our feelings before we take action. It is hard to impose an “emotional time out” when we are in the thick of an encounter that is triggering us, but it is essential to develop the ability to do so. By being consciously aware of the real reason (i.e. our primary fear) why we are responding so emotionally to something, we can work ourselves out of it in an evolved, enlightened way. The Black Moon return offers us an incredible opportunity to do some very real work on ourselves because she is tempted to come out into the light to be revealed and healed.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal North Node

When the transiting Black Moon conjuncts the natal North Node, we begin to experience a dramatic change or breakdown in some area of life that is blocking the path of what is in our highest and best interests. Obstacles to our destiny begin to fall away. We feel the need to move beyond the restrictions of the past. Although this is often challenging, hindsight will reveal how the changes were necessary to allow other events to unfold.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal South Node

When the transiting Black Moon conjuncts the natal South Node, we begin to experience a recurrence of some element from our past. Problems or situations that were unresolved return in order to be reconciled. We are likely to become uneasy or uncomfortable with routines or anything that is outworn. It is the nature of the Black Moon to clear and refresh any part of life that restricts us from actualizing our fullest potential and the conjunction with the South Node tries to move us in another direction.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Sun

During conjunctions and oppositions of the transiting Black Moon and the natal Sun, we experience a deep level of personal crisis. This transit, more than any other, takes one down into the wells of the Underworld in order to be remade. Depression, low levels of energy, sadness, apathy, hopelessness, and fear are common. This transit can also trigger thoughts of suicide. We often experience a critical event or circumstance imposed from the outer world. Information about others and/or the world around us is illuminated, causing us to question previous beliefs. With this new knowledge, we grieve the loss of the old outlook or paradigm. After the transit, we experience a change in outlook, our energy level begins to return, and we find that new opportunities are presented to us. We become empowered by what we have learned and, accordingly, begin to recreate our lives in dramatic ways.

Notes on the Transiting Black Moon Conjunction the Sun

The conjunction of the transiting Black Moon to the natal Sun is much more profound than the opposition. The conjunction drains all of our energy. Essentially, during the conjunction, the Black Moon causes degeneration and clears out the psychological debris that keeps us blocked

from self-actualization. It happens approximately every 8 years and 10 months and it sets the stage for dramatic changes in life. When the Black Moon approaches within three degrees from our Sun sign, we become extremely tired. It is crucial to surrender to this and sleep whenever possible. Trying to push through when you could be resting does not help this process. We need to enter into the unconscious sleep state as often as we can during the month that the Black Moon is on approach to our Sun so the Black Moon can clear away what she needs to go. Remember, the Black Moon works on the unseen, unconscious levels. We can facilitate the cycle of death and rebirth that we are undergoing by resting and sleeping as often as we can.

Some days are harder than others during this transit. We feel we are carrying a heavy burden and will be taken under at any time. It is an extremely emotional time, especially if there are other aspects at play in the chart. The conjunction of the Black Moon forces us to look at our past head-on. We feel like we are walking backwards, keeping the army of the past at bay. But the best thing to do is just turn around, face forward, and let the past follow behind. The past needs to stay in the past. Examining the past is part of the process of this transit because the last nine years (since the last transit of the Black Moon to the Sun) are degenerating. A rebirth will take place on the ground of the degenerated past.

There is no better metaphor for this transit than the phoenix that descends in a fiery blaze and is then reborn. When we undergo this transit, we are like the phoenix. But we can plunge to the depths scratching, clawing, and flailing in an effort to stem our fall, or we can dive headfirst in a graceful, contained, and purposeful descent. It is our choice. But if we know what is happening to us and know that it all leads to a reward, why shouldn't we at least try to surrender to the process? It is almost impossible to *embrace* this process (because the intensity and power of the descent is virtually too hot to touch), but we can *facilitate* it. Think about it: the Black Moon is burning away our old self to birth a better version and it has to get very, very hot to do that.

As the Black Moon makes the exact conjunction with the Sun and begins to move off, we immediately start to feel better. A great relief enters. It takes a little while for our bodies to adjust, but we emerge back into the world around us as a more refined version of ourselves. Our outlook has changed and we begin our new life with a fresh perspective.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Moon

As the transiting Black Moon approaches conjunction or opposition with the natal Moon, difficult experiences related to women occur. An individual's mother could experience a trauma or loss, the mother could pass, or if an individual is a mother, a traumatic situation involving her children can occur. Women may feel that their needs are not being addressed and they may voice these issues to their partners, often in impulsive ways. A man's partner (regardless of gender) may express dissatisfaction with the relationship. During this transit, we may also become aware of personal weaknesses or deficits, often precipitating some degree of emotional cascade. This transit illuminates the truth of oneself. Facing the reality of one's shortcomings can be painful, resulting in harsh self-judgments. After the transit, we integrate what we have learned about ourselves and, operating from a higher level of self-awareness, rectify whatever issues were revealed.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Mercury

Conjunctions and oppositions between the transiting Black Moon and the natal Mercury cause us to experience challenges in how we relate to and communicate with others. Thinking patterns can become negative and even obsessive. Anxiety or a sense that we are "losing our mind" can accompany. During these transits, we isolate ourselves or are isolated from others. Misunderstandings with others can cause major changes in relationships. We are often impatient with others, especially if they are not quickly picking up what we are saying. There is sometimes a tendency to feel that we know better than everyone else. It is important to think before you speak with these transits. After the transit, the mental body experiences a newfound clarity. New opportunities to express oneself in our relationships or in our profession develop.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Venus

As the Black Moon and Venus approach conjunction or opposition, a major rebalancing of our life occurs through the adding or subtracting of partners, friends, or money. Our value system is being overhauled by events during this transit. Transits of the Black Moon and Venus impel people to align themselves with what is best for them. Relationships that no longer serve the highest and best of the individuals involved often come to an end under these transits. However, new relationships soon follow - not to replace the old ways, but to introduce new ones.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Mars

Conjunctions or oppositions between Mars and the Black Moon cause our personal energy to become stifled. We find it harder to move forward on our goals. There is also great potential to misuse our energy in some way. Anger is amplified under these transits - we may find it almost impossible to control our tempers or levels of frustration. If strong emotions have been suppressed prior to the transit, they will invariably surface when the Black Moon and Mars conjunct or oppose. Our tolerance level is severely impacted. Sometimes we feel that we cannot “put up with” things anymore. After the transit, the emotional whirlwind dissipates; since our feelings have been brought out into the open, relationships are often more satisfying.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Jupiter

The transiting Black Moon in conjunction or opposition to the natal Jupiter causes the natal Black Moon issues and primary fear to be intensified. Situations arise that press these sensitive areas. The natal Black Moon should be studied in order to more fully understand this transit.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Saturn

As the transiting Black Moon approaches conjunction or opposition with Saturn, we see what is missing from our lives. We feel the need to take personal responsibility for our own happiness. Individuals who enter into new personal or professional relationships during these transits are often motivated by the desire to be taken care of or protected or have the desire to take care of or protect others. After the transit, we are revitalized and gain clarity and insight into our goals and direction in life. It is not uncommon for difficulties with males to occur. If other aspects are present, there is heightened potential for a person’s father or the partner of the individual’s mother to pass under this transit. The Black Moon and Saturn are highly incompatible. Saturn tries to restrict and the Black Moon rails against any imposition of restrictions. These transits can be challenging, but they always restructure our lives.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Chiron

During conjunctions and oppositions between the transiting Black Moon and Chiron, we feel as if we have been wounded to the core. These are some of the most difficult transits. Deep sadness and depression are

reported. Chiron rules suicide and transits involving the Black Moon intensify feelings of pain that lead to not wanting to continue with life. Self-imposed sacrifices are made or activities are eliminated from outside forces. These transits, however, are designed to heal a wound (often from early childhood) and heal the primary fear. Circumstances come into place to push us to come to terms with our shadow side. We may even unintentionally emotionally wound another through ending a relationship. When the transit is complete we experience tremendous relief and lightness. If the opportunity to heal what is being brought up during the transit is taken, we will go on to a higher experience of life, often finding a “calling” or a way to be of greater service to others and the Divine Plan.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Uranus

We experience the least challenging effects from conjunctions between the transiting Black Moon and Uranus. The Black Moon and Uranus do not have much connection to each other, other than they both prefer freedom from restrictions. We may have subtle feelings of anxiety or nervousness if the shadow side is deeply unconscious. Some may experience a change in circumstance that is ultimately designed to put them where they need to be. Events may even prompt the shadow side to surface in dramatic or explosive ways. On rare occasions, we find ourselves involved with “shadowy” groups or people.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Neptune

When the transiting Black Moon makes a conjunction or opposition with the natal Neptune, we enter a state of confusion about life or become fearful about the future. Formerly held beliefs about what we thought was important undergo transition during this time. We may make decisions that others feel are imprudent, such as suddenly quitting a stable job in favor of something unreliable. These transits can unleash repressed emotions, creativity, and ideas which can lead to trouble maintaining emotional equilibrium. Dramatic extremes need to be moderated. These transits also increase the potential for or recurrence of substance abuse and addiction. After the transit is complete, the need for escapism is tempered and we come back down to earth feeling less bound to convention.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Pluto

During conjunctions and oppositions the transiting Black Moon and natal Pluto, events are designed to harmonize romantic partnerships, particularly marriages. Circumstances develop so that problems within relationships can be addressed. Anything that hinders harmony will surface. During these transits, couples often enter counseling or reach a breakthrough if counseling has already been underway. Power dynamics within the relationship are usually a key focus. Unrealistic ideals that have been held since the dating stage are often revealed. Re-analysis of life takes place under this transit. Anything in life that we are unsatisfied with will come up during these transits. Low energy and the inability to significantly manifest progress on our goals (“hitting a wall”) may be experienced. After the transit, relationships are either more harmonious or they come to an end.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Eris

As the transiting Black Moon approaches conjunction or opposition with the natal Eris, we separate from situations or people that are holding back our free expression or our fullest self-actualization. We are usually the ones holding ourselves back, but we may not be able to accept this within the confines from which we seek release. These are transits of rebellion which bring dramatic changes in one’s life. After the transit, we recognize that we are our own authority.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Ascendant

As the Black Moon transits from the 12th house on approach to the Ascendant, a deep level of transformation of the very essence of one’s being occurs. Shedding the constraints of an outlook that is outworn, we begin a process where we are drawn to recreating everything – out with the old and in with the new. After the transit, we are empowered to continue the hard work of recreating our identity as the Black Moon begins transiting the 1st house.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Descendant

As the Black Moon transits from the 6th house on approach to the Descendant, one’s physical body undergoes tremendous stress. If health issues were not properly addressed during the Black Moon’s transit of the 6th house, the conjunction with the Descendant is where health issues intensify or recur. The level of physical energy that is available is

significantly diminished. Clients often report feeling drained. A person's personal energy field is being refined during this transit and any residue that was not "burned off" during the 6th house transit suddenly surfaces. Deep, unresolved emotional blocks are the cause of the health issue. If these issues are resolved, the energetic field is revitalized and restored after the transit. New responsibilities may be given at work. Issues with co-workers may cause us to seek new employment.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Imum Coeli (IC)

As the Black Moon approaches conjunction with the IC, we begin to rearrange our priorities. Intense self-reflection occurs, which can be very draining. We sense that something important needs to change in our life and we will focus on this during the Black Moon's transit of the 4th house.

Transiting Black Moon – Natal Midheaven (MC)

As the Black Moon approaches conjunction with the MC, we feel a need to take on a new role. This transit brings significant changes in how people see us, for better or for worse. People either begin to recognize what we have to offer or responsibilities are taken away if people lose confidence in us. The degree to which the personal shadow is in control determines the influence. The transit of the Black Moon over the MC demands that we release our core fear and it will give us the opportunity to do it ourselves or face a consequence. If the core fear can be transcended during this transit, we can reap tremendous reward.

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In a sense, the Black Moon casts her shadow on the house that she is affecting, darkly underlining the area of life that the house rules and drawing our attention there so that a rebirth can occur. The primary fear and issues of the natal Black Moon will always surface in the context of the transiting Black Moon in a house.

Black Moon Transiting the 1st House

As the Black Moon transits the 1st house, our sense of self is being re-created. A shadow is cast over our identity and feelings of self-worth, causing us to re-evaluate who we really are and how we can realign our life to reflect that.

Black Moon Transiting the 2nd House

As the Black Moon transits the 2nd house, our value system is being re-created. A shadow is cast over our financial situation as well as our feelings about personal security, comfort, and appearance. Loss of money or possessions can occur. Re-evaluation of what is truly of value brings reconnection with the simple pleasures of life.

Black Moon Transiting the 3rd House

As the Black Moon transits the 3rd house, our attitude and outlook about life is being re-created. A shadow is cast over the way we communicate with others. We become more aware of ourselves in relation to others. There is often confusion about the direction of one's life. Re-evaluation of how we express ourselves enables us to expand our experience of life.

Black Moon Transiting the 4th House

As the Black Moon transits the 4th house, the structure of our life's foundation is being re-created. If we identify our home lives as the foundation of our lives, this will be the place where refreshment will occur. Some people identify their work life as their foundation; this will be the place that will undergo revision. During this transit, a shadow is cast over the past, forcing us to either let go of the past or change the way we feel about it. We will re-evaluate who or what truly supports us in an effort to strengthen our foundation so that we can fly to new heights.

Black Moon Transiting the 5th House

As the Black Moon transits the 5th house, our feelings about what it means to enjoy life are being re-created. A shadow is cast over our ability to have fun, create, and love, causing us to re-evaluate what truly brings us a feeling of joy. Issues with children can also occur as the Black Moon transits this house.

Black Moon Transiting the 6th House

As the Black Moon transits the 6th house, our health, well-being, and professional life are being re-created. A shadow is cast over the body, causing us to re-evaluate how well we take care of ourselves. Dissatisfaction with work often causes interpersonal difficulties with co-workers or the desire to change jobs. During this transit, there is a revitalization of our physical body and how we utilize our personal energy.

Black Moon Transiting the 7th House

As the Black Moon transits the 7th house, our partnerships are being re-created. A shadow is cast over relationships, causing us to re-evaluate the nature of those relationships and the associated levels of commitment. During this transit, we become intimately aware of what is missing from relationships and what is most important to other people. Separations, break-ups, and divorces can occur under this transit; however, it is common for a person to experience a quick rebound that often leads to a relationship that is more fulfilling and lasting.

Black Moon Transiting the 8th House

As the Black Moon transits the 8th house, we experience a journey through the Underworld that leads to re-creation on the deepest levels. We often undergo tests of faith, endurance, power, and suitability. Sexual dysfunction can occur, but so can a new-found sense of intimacy. If other astrological factors are at play, we may experience a loss of something beloved. Winning and losing are keenly experienced, causing a re-evaluation of these ideas.

Black Moon Transiting the 9th House

As the Black Moon transits the 9th house, our sense of spirituality is being re-created. A shadow is cast over our connection with our Higher Self. There is often a feeling of disconnection with *anything* meaningful, causing a re-evaluation of our life pursuits and morals. A “leap of faith” in some area of life is usually required.

Black Moon Transiting the 10th House

As the Black Moon transits the 10th house, the respect and recognition that others give us is being re-created. A shadow is cast over our ability to take personal responsibility for our lives and we feel that we are at the mercy of circumstances outside of our control. To compensate, we often intensify our personal efforts or our efforts to control others. If we try to control others, it will backfire. Only personal efforts will alleviate this transit; in fact, they will bring about others’ complete re-visioning of everything we have to offer.

Black Moon Transiting the 11th House

As the Black Moon transits the 11th house, our hopes, wishes, and dreams are being re-created. A shadow is cast over our social life and the roles we perform in groups. Dramatic changes in life occur under this transit, causing a re-evaluation of our objectives and the people with whom we associate. During this transit, we know something needs to change. A new life dream often emerges.

Black Moon Transiting the 12th House

As the Black Moon transits the 12th house, anything that restricts us from actualizing our potential or experiencing what we came into this life to experience is removed. The Black Moon “cleans house.” This transit requires extreme trust in the fact that a Higher Power directs the course of one’s life. Under this transit, the Black Moon asks that we surrender to what is happening and sacrifice the desire to change it. People exert very little power over their lives during the Black Moon’s transit through the 12th house because she enacts circumstances that put us where we need to be. We have had the opportunity to work with our lives as she transited the 1st through 11th houses and now the Black Moon takes control to set us up for rebirth when she crosses the Ascendant and re-enters the 1st house. The transit of the Black Moon through the 12th house is quite unpredictable because it affects whatever has not been addressed in our lives. It is the Black Moon’s last chance to give a face to face meeting with the shadow side so that an evolution of consciousness can occur. During this transit we need to identify how the core fear of our natal Black Moon is showing up in our lives, thereby showing us what is truly holding us back.

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Transits of the Planets to the Black Moon

Generally speaking, the transiting Black Moon to a natal planet has significantly more impact on an individual than does a transiting planet to the natal Black Moon. The transiting Black Moon is a powerhouse when she makes a conjunction or opposition in the chart, and dramatic outer events happen when the Black Moon transits.

But when a transiting planet makes a conjunction or opposition to the natal Black Moon, personal issues related to our primary fear come to the surface. It is more of an internal process. We undergo an encounter with our shadow side within the archetypal realm of the planet that is making the contact.

Transits to the natal Black Moon throw energy on the shadow side. They activate the shadow and free it from its confines within the unconscious. The transits force a personal re-evaluation because we see facets of ourselves that were previously unknown. However, we are largely unaware of what is happening and, if the feelings are uncomfortable, we tend to handle the transit by projecting the feelings that are being brought up. We push them on to others and try to make them take responsibility for them. Projection of the shadow side is heightened when transiting planets make conjunctions or oppositions to the natal Black Moon.

Above all, when a planet transits the natal Black Moon by either conjunction or opposition, we are being given an opportunity to take more responsibility for ourselves. Ultimately this leads to an increase in personal power. Personal empowerment is the main goal of transits to the Black Moon. It all follows the wisdom of “know thyself.”

The effects of the transiting planet will begin when it approaches within three degrees of the natal Black Moon and will end when the exact contact is made. All of the work is completed when the exact conjunction or opposition takes place. The timing of these transits is exact to the minute. If the individual has had a difficult transit, relief will be felt immediately after the exact contact.

Substantial personal growth is possible when planets transit the Black Moon. The focus of the transit is distinctly personal. Astrologers can facilitate the process by explaining the nature of the transit and redirecting the client if projection is occurring.

Transiting North Node – Natal Black Moon

When the North Node conjuncts the natal Black Moon, it attempts to lift us up and mold us into something new. It wants to erase our primary fear so that we can be free to fulfill our destiny. This is a relatively nice transit to the Black Moon, one that opens doors and helps us move into unknown territory.

Transiting South Node – Natal Black Moon

The conjunction of the South Node and the natal Black Moon often causes us to feel repressed. These two astrological bodies are in direct contrast because the Black Moon represents the hidden part of us that wants to be free, and the South Node is how we are bound to our past. This is a heavy transit, but it often prompts us to break free from situations and relationships that are unsatisfying.

Transiting Moon – Natal Black Moon

Each month, the shadow side surfaces when the Moon conjuncts and opposes our natal Black Moon. We can gain considerable insight into the hidden part of ourselves very quickly by tracking the Moon and watching how we feel and behave on these two days. The transiting Moon will trigger the emotions related to the primary fear of the shadow. We often feel vulnerable or exposed and reactionary. Our tendency to project is heightened. These transits can be likened to our “evil twin” coming out. The conjunction of the Moon and the natal Black Moon is stronger than the opposition. After a few months of observing and recording the events and our emotional responses that happen on these two days, we get a clear picture of the hidden, fearful part of ourselves. This information is a gold mine for the conscious evolution of the soul because we can choose to do things a different way and make big changes in our lives. Cyclic reactions can be pre-empted. Imagine how much different life can be when we are empowered with the information we need to interrupt our self-sabotaging behavior.

Transiting Sun – Natal Black Moon

The Sun conjuncts the natal Black Moon one time each year and it opposes the natal Black Moon one time each year. These transits occur respectively at the same time year after year. Transits between the Sun and the Black Moon are the most challenging. The intense brightness of the Sun is uncomfortable for the Black Moon because it lives most of the

time in complete darkness. These transits are like throwing open the curtains of a dark room. We see the true state of things. We see things that need to be cleaned or tidied up, thrown out, repaired, rearranged, or reorganized. We also see what is missing. We see “holes” in our lives. Although the transits of the Sun force us to deal with ourselves, we always feel better afterward. We are stronger because we face our fears in some way. Essentially, we are reborn two times a year when the Sun makes the conjunction and opposition to the natal Black Moon.

Transiting Mercury – Natal Black Moon

Transiting Mercury’s conjunction and opposition to the natal Black Moon is evidenced when we speak before we think. We can get ourselves into hot water during these transits. However, as a by-product, the air is usually cleared and people understand exactly where we stand, so progress on tasks and relationships is made. These transits affect not only our communications, but also our thinking patterns. The tendency is to see the glass as half empty. We can also beat ourselves up for perceived weaknesses or failures. Negative thought loops can be hard to break. Usually whatever thought we are obsessed with is something that needs to be addressed.

Transiting Venus – Natal Black Moon

Essentially, Venus and the Black Moon are twins. Venus is the “Shining One” and the Black Moon is the “Dark One.” The conjunction of transiting Venus to the natal Black Moon is the most beneficent of all of the planetary transits. This transit of Venus brings new people, opportunities, and relationships. These may not be entirely new, but a new version – a rebirth. Transiting Venus accepts our shadow side for what it is and softens it in the process. Venus eases our primary fear and coaxes the Black Moon to come out and join the drama by bringing out the natural traits of passion and excitement.

Transiting Venus’ opposition to the natal Black Moon causes temptation. We want our desires fulfilled and this can prompt us to act impulsively. It is important to try to hold on to good judgment during this transit because we can get carried away. Think about the consequences of your actions but recognize that there is an underlying issue that needs to be addressed. The Black Moon is associated with basic (primal) desires and instincts and if there is a problem here, it won’t go away easily. Considerable insight into the state of one’s psyche can be

gained from this transit. The information that is gleaned will help with some of the more challenging transits to the Black Moon.

Transiting Mars – Natal Black Moon

When transiting Mars conjuncts or opposes the natal Black Moon, anger invariably surfaces. The level of anger is proportional to the strength of the primary fear. Under these transits, events develop to that trigger the feelings related to the issues of the primary fear and they become impossible to ignore. People tend to “vent.” Expression of these feelings comes from a deep level within the psyche, but the explosiveness often makes other people fearful. It is too hot to touch, so we rarely get to the core issue. This is a wonderful time to undergo counseling or talk with a practitioner because everything is raw and very real progress can be made. The energy of Mars gives us the ability to really see ourselves clearly and understand motivations that may be causing our “downfall” or “negative greeting” in life.

Transiting Jupiter – Natal Black Moon

Transiting Jupiter in conjunction or opposition to the natal Black Moon makes the shadow side grow so large that we can't ignore it. This can sometimes be called a “spiritual crisis.” Under this transit, events unfold to exaggerate the primary fear. Anyone who is aware of what his or her primary fear is will clearly see its manifestation during these transits. Though often painful, these transits are wonderful opportunities to become better people. We have a chance to short circuit our normal reaction patterns and heal the fear. Jupiter gives us the ability to rise above things, and when we do the real work of the transit, we experience a noticeable change in the quality of our lives and our relationship with something bigger than ourselves.

Transiting Saturn – Natal Black Moon

Saturn and the Black Moon are not good friends. When transiting Saturn makes the conjunction or opposition to the Black Moon, we encounter feelings of strife and inner conflict. We want to do “the right thing” but we are confused about if that is really the best thing for us. These transits encapsulate the struggle between the polarities of masculine and feminine. Usually we need to integrate more of one of the polarities, regardless of gender. If the masculine side is out of balance, action in the world should be undertaken. If the feminine side is out of balance, one's inner world

should be cultivated. An individual who has not to a certain degree resolved these polarities within him or herself will have more difficulty during these transits. These transits can also involve the need to let go of responsibilities or the need to take on more responsibility. Take a good look at how you use your time. Are you squandering it or are you abusing it? Saturn's transit of the Black Moon will press you into being reasonable with what you do with your time.

Transiting Chiron – Natal Black Moon

Conjunctions of transiting Chiron to the natal Black Moon bring healing after a painful experience. On the approach of Chiron, a situation or event weakens us in order to prepare us to learn a lesson. After the exact conjunction, a great healing takes place. Chiron's orbit is approximately 50 years, so we really only have one chance for this during our lifetimes. It is a great gift.

Oppositions of transiting Chiron to the natal Black Moon involve some sort of separation. We leave behind something or someone that no longer serves our best interests or others' best interests. This can be a difficult transit because the separation may be like a quick, unexpected slicing or a long, dull cutting, depending on the other aspects in the chart at the time. Oftentimes surgeries accompany this transit, and it is preferable to have surgery under this transit as opposed to the transit of the Black Moon opposing the natal Chiron.

Transiting Uranus – Natal Black Moon

Transiting Uranus in conjunction or opposition to the Black Moon will prompt a total overhaul of one's life. Uranus is setting the Black Moon free, which is what she desires most. Self-imposed limitations evaporate under this transit. The energetic makeup of the shadow is completely reconfigured, meaning it can be wholly healed and integrated into the psyche. An entirely new experience of life can be reached. The body may quake while the transit is happening, but the changes will be permanent. Fears can be eradicated at this time.

Transiting Neptune – Natal Black Moon

When Neptune transits the natal Black Moon by conjunction or opposition, the shadow side goes deeper into hiding. Neptune takes us into illusory lands, which is often fun, so these transits can be quite nice and free from difficulties. During these transits, we create our own little

world – a world that may not make sense to others. We retreat into ourselves and this can cause people to worry about us. The best use of these transits is to express our feelings in some way – artistically or interpersonally. As long as we don't lose track of reality, these transits can be a great relief because our primary fear is minimized and transmuted by Neptune. Since the shadow side is difficult to pinpoint anyway, the addition of “shadowy” Neptune makes it virtually impossible. These transits offer us a break from our shadow sides.

Transiting Pluto – Natal Black Moon

Pluto is the Black Moon's consort, and transits of Pluto to the natal Black Moon always involve relationships, especially marriages and long-term partnerships. Conjunction and opposition of transiting Pluto to the natal Black Moon will break down anything that is weak within relationships. The relationships do not necessarily end. Pluto and the Black Moon demand that those involved regain respect for each other, but if this cannot be done, the relationship will end. If one person has taken unfair advantage of the other, the relationship will definitely end. These two energies hold people to the highest values in relationships. Interestingly, if one partner was caring and giving, there is usually a third party waiting in the wings for them or someone shows up soon after the end of the relationship.

The Black Moon and True Love

How could something as dark as a shadow tell us anything about something as beautiful as true love? The Black Moon does because she outlines our heart's desire.

When someone offers you the one thing your soul seeks, it is like a reunion with Spirit. True love is what heals the feeling of separation from our Source, which we know is the root cause of our primary fear in life.

For example, a woman with the Black Moon in Capricorn has a primary fear of neglect and of not being acknowledged. When she meets someone who voices recognition of her efforts, talents, preferences, interests, etc., the void is filled and she feels that she is truly loved.

We are supposed to provide for ourselves what we feel we lack, but it is natural for us to fall in love with whoever offers us a feeling of wholeness. But problems arise when we expect others to give us everything we need. There are always two sides to the Black Moon and if we rely on our loved one to resolve our shadow issue for us, true love will erode. The Black Moon will giveth and she will taketh away. If anything, when one is gifted with true love, it is even more important to resolve the core fear of the shadow. True love resists restrictions and if we relegate the responsibility of our personal shadow solely to our partner, the relationship will not withstand the strain. And it is tragic when true love is suffocated by neediness.

Love Story

There is a back-story to the myth of Inanna's descent into the Underworld and it traces back to the 15th century BC. The earliest myths about Inanna's sister, Ereshkigal, place significantly less stress on her role as the dark Queen of the Underworld, associating her more with fidelity and love within a committed relationship. Ereshkigal and her husband, Nergal, co-ruled the Underworld, never taking other partners. In fact, Ereshkigal and Nergal seem to have the only relationship within the Sumerian pantheon that remained not only faithful, but faithful and happily ever after. They symbolized the balance of masculine and feminine in partnership. In the myths, each of them is able to move flexibly between being alternately receptive and assertive – masculine and feminine regardless of “gender roles” - and they are able to do so

synchronously. They harmonize the highest ideals of relationships and marriage. This explains why Ereshkigal is so tormented when Nergal dies.

It is my suspicion that the mysterious gift of truth that Inanna receives (which actually prompts her descent into the Underworld) is the revelation that her husband does not truly love her. The sisters' marriages are in complete contrast. Whereas Ereshkigal is heartbroken and mourns the passing of her beloved husband and partner, Inanna quickly discards her husband because he was *not* a true partner. Ereshkigal experienced true love, but Inanna saw the truth of her marriage upon her return from the Underworld, and then could not look back.

The astrology of the Black Moon has significant application within relationships because the shadow side always shows up within partnerships. When people understand how and why they are projecting their shadow sides onto their partner and also how they can resolve their own shadow issues, amazingly, love returns. The couple can experience a rebirth of the relationship. A partnership between two people who have integrated their shadows is a rare and lovely thing.

True Love for the Black Moon in Aries

With the Black Moon in Aries we have a core fear of being unworthy. This placement can make romantic relationships difficult because, to some extent, we feel inherently unworthy or undeserving of things like a healthy relationship. We know true love when we accept romantic intentions from someone who sees us as successful in some regard and who admires and honors us.

True Love for the Black Moon in Taurus

With the Black Moon in Taurus we have a core fear of not having enough of something that makes us feel comfortable. We know true love when we are with someone with whom we feel safe and secure. If we overemphasize financial security as the element that provides comfort, we run the risk of a superficial partnership.

True Love for the Black Moon in Gemini

With the Black Moon in Gemini we have a core fear of rejection. We know true love when we are with someone who accepts who we really are – the good, the bad, and the ugly. Gemini is known for naturally seeking partnership. We need to learn to discern between someone who is merely

flattering us and someone who actually likes and accepts who we are as an individual.

True Love for the Black Moon in Cancer

With the Black Moon in Cancer we have a core fear of being abandoned. We know true love when we feel that our partner is supportive of us. For us, true love is someone who follows through on what they say they will do, as we respond most favorably to reliability and responsibility. This placement is prone to dependency issues in relationships so we need to take care that we are not overly-demanding of our partner.

True Love for the Black Moon in Leo

With the Black Moon in Leo we have a core fear of change and us concerned with order or rank. We know true love when we are with someone who makes us a priority. Simple tasks that require some of our partner's time (such as picking up our dry cleaning, for example) are seen as love. We need to take care that we do not make a habit of placing our needs above our partner's needs. On-again and off-again relationships are very difficult for us, as we like to feel that our relationships are on solid ground.

True Love for the Black Moon in Virgo

With the Black Moon in Virgo we have a core fear of failure. We know true love when we are with someone who recognizes our capabilities and expresses confidence in us. We inherently possess a certain degree of insecurity about relationships, and may even believe that true love isn't possible. Our fear of failure often makes it difficult for us to commit to a relationship even if we are in love. Break ups or divorces are particularly hard on us.

True Love for the Black Moon in Libra

With the Black Moon in Libra we have a core fear of being alone, which causes us to enter into relationships that are not necessarily good for us. It is often more important for us to be in any relationship as opposed to a good relationship. Add to this the fact that Black Moon in Libra seeks perfection, which is an illusion, and relationships can be quite challenging. Much like the Black Moon in Gemini, we know true love when our partner sees us as perfect just as we are.

True Love for the Black Moon in Scorpio

With the Black Moon in Scorpio we have a core fear of loss. We know true love when we are with someone who in some way makes us feel “alive.” We often fuse true love with rescuing or being rescued. We have a tendency to stay in relationships that are unsatisfactory just so we don’t have to deal with the loss. We particularly like partners that we have “won over” or who we view as a “prize.” As such, we risk objectifying our partners. Although the death of a partner is difficult for everyone, it is profoundly so for us.

True Love for the Black Moon in Sagittarius

With the Black Moon in Sagittarius we have a core fear of meaninglessness. We know true love when we can engage with someone on a deep level. We enjoy relationships with deep thinkers and fellow seekers of truth. We value honesty above all else and have trouble regaining trust with a partner who has lied to us.

True Love for the Black Moon in Capricorn

With the Black Moon in Capricorn we have a core fear of not being acknowledged. We know true love with someone who pays attention to our likes, dislikes, interests, opinions, etc. We appreciate good listeners. We also appreciate partners who recognize our efforts to make others happy. We need to guard against control issues or thinking that our way is always the best.

True Love for the Black Moon in Aquarius

With the Black Moon in Aquarius we have a core fear of powerlessness. We know true love with someone who thinks we are strong, powerful, disciplined or talented in some way. We must be mindful of the fact that we are prone to power issues within relationships, which can cause a considerable amount of problems.

True Love for the Black Moon in Pisces

With the Black Moon in Pisces we have a core fear of vulnerability. We know true love when we are with someone we feel we can truly trust. A partner’s infidelity is particularly hard for us to overcome, as is a partner who “changes colors” once they are committed. We often have difficulty

discerning who is appropriate for us and can conveniently overlook obvious red flags during the dating stage.

Case Studies

Following are analyses of six famous peoples' horoscopes that we can study to help us understand how the Black Moon operates. I have deliberately chosen people who are deceased, as it is not proper to bring someone's shadow side into view unless invited to do so.

As we look at their lives, it becomes apparent how much power the shadow side holds. The shadow is often responsible for a person's drive to succeed or achieve in life. This is not surprising since the shadow is sourced in primal survival instincts. The case studies reveal how the issues of the Black Moon energize some to actualize their potential and how the Black Moon pummel some to the point of deep despair.

Would these people have accomplished such greatness if, at some point, they had become aware of the influence their shadow sides held over their lives? The question lingers.

Johnny Cash: Black Dog in the Ring of Fire

Black Moon at 22 Aries 35 in the 1st House

Although he may not have termed it so, Johnny Cash was quite aware of his shadow side. He even had a name for it – the black dog. Aries is all about “the self” and the Black Moon in Aries carries a certain depth of self-loathing that few can fathom. The characteristic core fear of unworthiness and the intense self-sabotaging and self-destructive tendencies of the Black Moon in Aries are legendary with Johnny Cash. The fact that his Aries Black Moon resided in Aries' natural house, the First House, which rules the self and identity, only exacerbated the issues.

Throughout his adult life, Johnny Cash was involved in a self-sabotaging loop. He doused his fiery Aries shadow of unworthiness with the watery addictions of his 12th House Sun in Pisces, Pisces Ascendant, and 8th House Moon in Scorpio. His shadow (feeling of unworthiness) was strong and he found temporary relief from it by abusing amphetamines, barbiturates, and alcohol, which served to reinforce his inherent feelings of unworthiness. This self-destructive spiral fed his shadow side and nearly cost him his life on several occasions. His life calls particular attention to the term “hell-bent.” He was quite aware of his intense self-hatred and described it as a daily holocaust.

Johnny Cash's father was abusive and that alone can lead to feelings of unworthiness and lack of self-esteem. But the traumatic loss of his brother in early life ingrained those feelings very deeply. When he was twelve years old, Jack, who was only two years older and whom he worshipped as a hero, was fatally injured in an accident with a table saw. Jack was perfect in Johnny's eyes and most everyone else's, too. Jack wanted to be a preacher when he grew up. He was devout without being intrusive to others and he was loved by the entire town. Shortly after Jack's death, Johnny's father, Ray Cash, told him that it was too bad it wasn't him instead of Jack who died. This is the pain that Johnny Cash carried throughout his life and it engaged the eternal Black Moon in Aries' quest to be valued. In a classic reaction, Johnny set out to prove his father right by becoming the Man in Black – a stark contrast to the heavenly Jack, the Man in White.

The Black Moon in Aries also engaged Johnny's life on the road as a "highway man" in search of success. People with the Black Moon in Aries exert tremendous energy to prove themselves. Johnny Cash was conflicted in this because, on the one hand, his mother felt his voice was a gift, and on the other hand, his father believed that he would never succeed in music. Accordingly, he worked hard at his career while at the same time he worked hard at destroying himself and his young family. He often would not come home or call for weeks, including holidays. This was a source of much regret in his later life.

In October of 1965, Cash was arrested in El Paso, Texas on the federal drug charge of possession of a controlled substance. The transiting Black Moon was approaching opposition to his natal Jupiter, having the effect of expanding the natal Black Moon. Transiting Mercury was also approaching opposition with his natal Black Moon, reinforcing the darkest thoughts he had about himself. He was embarrassed and ashamed, which are two common feelings for anyone with the Black Moon in Aries. This placement of the Black Moon causes natives to be self-conscious of others' opinions of them and upset when they feel they are letting others down.

Much has been written about Johnny Cash and his wife, June Carter Cash, being soul mates. The astrology certainly shows that their union was destined and that it was intended to bring about healing for Johnny. On the day that they married, the transiting Black Moon, which is intimately linked with marriage, was approaching conjunction with Johnny's natal Chiron and the transiting North Node had just passed conjunction with his natal Black Moon.

The true seed of all shadow sides is the feeling of being separated from Source. Johnny Cash was keenly aware of the reason for his self-

destructive habits and wrote about it in his autobiography. The return of the transiting Black Moon to its natal position in the summer of 1967 was one of the most difficult times in his life and the Black Dog that was Johnny's shadow reared its head. He attempted suicide by taking pills and crawling into treacherous Nickajack Cave on the Tennessee River, hoping to lose his way, never to be found.

Johnny then had a spiritual experience that prompted him not give up. In his drug-induced state, he willed himself to move and finally made his way out of the cave where, to his surprise, June Carter and his mother were waiting for him. After a difficult withdrawal and recovery, he later reflected that the greatest joy of his life at that time was that he no longer felt separated from God.

Even in his own time, Johnny Cash was a legend. He was a true Renaissance Man, although his Black Moon in Aries shielded this recognition from his view. Perhaps the saddest thing about the Black Moon in Aries is that they rarely know their greatness. Those same feelings of unworthiness that drive them so hard to prove their value are also what cause them to soar to great heights.

Jimi Hendrix: Voodoo Child Abandoned

Black Moon at 10 Cancer 17 in the 7th House Conjunct Descendant

Jimi Hendrix always had a special affinity for the sky. As if reciprocating the feeling, the sky seemed to announce his coming. His mother went into labor during an unseasonably fierce Seattle thunderstorm on Thanksgiving night 1942. The next morning, the sky cleared to a beautiful blue and the guitar god was finally born.

But Jimi Hendrix would never really know his mother. Only 17 when he was born, Lucille Hendrix was mostly absent from Jimi's life, shuffling him from family member to neighbor, across states and even across countries. Lucille disappeared from his life when he was 11 years old and died of cirrhosis of the liver and hepatitis when he was 15. The day his mother died, the Moon passed over Jimi's natal Black Moon and transiting Pluto was conjunct his natal Chiron/North Node conjunction in Leo in his 8th house. At this same time, Jimi acquired his first guitar. A fusion between his grief and his music was cemented during this period of time - a combination that would take him deeply into the underworld of his shadow.

Jimi's father, Al Hendrix, was away serving in World War II when Jimi was born. Jimi was 3 years old when he first laid eyes on his father. Al Hendrix was a hard-working man with a severe temper and a tendency

to drink. Al and Lucille were engaged in a vicious cycle of family violence and they separated and reunited often. When they finally separated for the last time, Al retained custody of Jimi and his younger brother, Leon, but social workers frequently visited the home to check on the children. On more than one occasion, the boys were removed from the home and placed in foster care on charges of abuse and neglect. Eventually, Leon was permanently taken from Al. Jimi remained with Al after Al persuaded social workers that Jimi would require less care since he was older. Describing a situation that far surpassed life as a “latchkey child,” one neighbor (who literally kept him from starving) compared him to a stray dog that wandered the neighborhood. Young Jimi was dependent on the kindness of strangers not only for meals, but also for safe places to sleep. From his earliest years, Jimi couldn’t depend on much; Al even changed his birth name from Johnny Allen Hendrix to James Marshall Hendrix, adding to his sense of instability.

The abandonment by his mother, separation from his brother, and abuse from his father formed the bulk of a Black Moon in Cancer shadow that followed Jimi throughout his short life. The core fear of the Black Moon in Cancer is the fear of abandonment; the shadow manifests as dependency issues. Jimi was a starving artist for most of his adult life, as he achieved financial success only in the last couple of years of his life. He was averse to the idea of working, except as it related to his music. Jimi also used his neediness to full advantage with women. He was the recipient of several female benefactresses and during his early career, he often wrote to former girlfriends asking for money to supposedly get his guitar out of the pawn shop. Jimi always had his guitar with him and played it day and night - even in the movie theatre. The women couldn’t stand the thought of him being without his guitar.

Jimi always had a steady girlfriend, but also had multiple (often anonymous) sexual encounters. This could easily be attributed to the context of the times, but it also ensured that he wouldn’t be alone if his girlfriend left him. These affairs also kept him from being hurt if he was abandoned, because he wasn’t truly invested.

The Black Moon in Cancer carries the pervasive feeling that one is unable to support oneself, which can halt natural personal growth. People with the Black Moon in Cancer can appear to be child-like or immature in many ways because they have depended on others to take care of their needs. Jimi was always described as childlike. When he was 25, his father actually attempted to spank him and was thwarted only by his brother’s intervention.

After his mother’s death, Jimi Hendrix defied her and it was a fantasy that only grew with time. The Sky Goddesses of Jimi’s songs can

be seen as his attempt to reconnect with his long lost mother. His masterpieces “Angel” and “Little Wing” show the deep loss he experienced from her absence. The intensity of his pain created great works of art but also kept him dependent on something he could never find. In his quest to unite with her high in the sky, he turned to drugs. This self-destructive aspect of his shadow was exacerbated by his natal Chiron/North Node conjunction in his 8th house. Jimi died of a drug overdose on September 18, 1970, as the transiting Black Moon was conjunct his natal Chiron/North Node – the point in his chart that was first activated by transiting Pluto when his mother died.

Just as the sky cleared to declare the coming of the guitar god, it bowed at his passing; even the almighty Sun went into mourning in the Underworld when it conjunct Pluto that day.

Princess Diana: Third in Line

Black Moon at 16 Leo 46 in the 8th House

An entire book could be written detailing the impact and influence of the Black Moon on Princess Diana’s life. It is uncanny how the transits of the Black Moon shadowed the major events in her life. Even the Sabian symbol for the degree of her natal Black Moon in Leo matches the exact expression of her shadow, but more on that later.

A key element of the Black Moon in Leo is the concern about one’s order and position within a framework, relationship, or hierarchy. There is no greater example of hierarchy than the British monarchy, but that wasn’t even the heart of Diana’s Black Moon in Leo issues. As she said herself, there were always more than two people in her marriage. Though Diana was the first wife of the future king of England, she was in fact the “other woman” in a love triangle. Prince Charles’ first love was Camilla Parker-Bowles and, from the very beginning, Diana was the odd-woman out. On the day Charles and Diana were married, the transiting Black Moon opposed her natal Venus (addition of a partner) with transiting Chiron conjunct her natal Venus (pain and wounding in relationships).

Diana’s value system held that a wife should be first in a husband’s list of priorities. Sadly, this was not the case and the predicament haunted Diana for most of her adult life. The status of the relationship was always in her face. Charles gave Camilla a bracelet two days before he and Diana’s wedding. While they were on their honeymoon, two pictures of Camilla fell out of his appointment book and fell on the floor, as if underlining the point. Charles often wore cufflinks

with two intertwined C's given to him by Camilla. It was never a secret who was first in Charles' heart. This broke Diana's heart and fueled her shadow side by waging a full frontal assault on her ego.

But coming in third wasn't something new for Diana. The third child born to her parents was a boy, an eagerly anticipated heir, who died. When Diana was born next, she was but yet another daughter. Diana believed that this was the turning point in her parents' marriage that would later lead to divorce, even though a son did follow three years after Diana. She wrote that she about how she was supposed to be a boy and often referenced her status as third in line. She carried the belief that she was something of a nuisance or a problem as an undercurrent throughout her life.

Her parents' divorce was a painful, formative event in her life and she described her childhood as very unhappy. Diana was the only girl in school with divorced parents, which only strengthened her long-held feeling that she was always different. This type of scenario is especially difficult for anyone with the Black Moon in Leo because there is a tendency to judge oneself according to one's level, station, or status. The Black Moon in Leo has a need to designate and classify; having parents who were divorced put her in an altogether different category at a young age.

Accompanying her parents' divorce was the constant changing of nannies. She saw the young, pretty nannies chosen by her father as a threat to her mother. Here again, we see the concern with role and position but we also see the core fear of the Black Moon in Leo, the fear of change because when Diana would return home from school on holiday she would have a new nanny. These experiences contributed to her craving for the cohesion and stability of an intact family, which she could never have with Charles.

Associated with the Black Moon in Leo's fear of change is the fear of losing face. Her much-publicized bulimia and efforts to gain Charles' attention (including a half-hearted suicide attempt while she was pregnant) made her feel like an embarrassment. As her marriage began to deteriorate before the public, Diana countered the royal spin machine with a plan to leak her side of the story to a chosen biographer, essentially creating an autobiography in the process. When the book was published, the transiting Black Moon opposed her natal Black Moon, prompting both an internal rebirth and a rebirth in front of the public. She became desperate to have her side of the story known. Diana's biographer related that her greatest fear was that the royal family would begin to discredit her by painting her as irrational and unfit to represent the family or to raise her children. This caused much distress to a person who was so high-

profile; however, open exposure of any perceived weakness or deficit is hard for anyone with the Black Moon in Leo.

Interestingly, the Sabian symbol for Diana's Black Moon in Leo is *a volunteer church choir makes a social event of rehearsal*. The narrative for the symbol discusses a need to be with like-minds, unified voices needing to be heard, fear of lifting one's own voice, and standing in the background because of a belief that one is not good enough to join in. Diana struggled with these issues most of her life. Reflecting on her years in school, she wrote how she never spoke up or joined in anything that required her to speak in public. Diana begged Charles to hear her pleas for saving their marriage but she spoke in vain. She seemed to just be starting to have her voice heard when her life ended suddenly.

Diana was killed in a car accident in Paris in 1997, and if the time of death that has been made public is correct, the transiting Moon was exactly conjunct her natal Black Moon and transiting Jupiter was opposing it. The transiting Black Moon was within four arc minutes of leaving her 8th House of the Underworld, home of her Black Moon.

George Washington: The Shadow That Created a Nation

Black Moon at 13 Virgo 05 Opposing Venus

The Black Moon in Virgo involves questions about one's abilities and what one is capable of doing. The fear of failure is acute with this placement of the Black Moon. Founding Father George Washington was born with the Black Moon in Virgo. Interestingly, even though history has charged him as a great success, it was the intimate awareness of his *failures* that made him truly successful. Washington's life was plagued with failures. But, just as it is with most people with the Black Moon in Virgo, the blind spot is blind to everyone, not just the individual who possesses it. No one sees their failures because their successes are so much larger. In effect, the Black Moon in Virgo is a double-blind spot.

Individuals with the Black Moon in Virgo work harder than anyone else to make sure they do a good job. They innately feel that they are not capable of doing what is required to be successful in a situation so they put in an extraordinary amount of effort. That they go "above and beyond what is necessary" is what people remember about them – not their failures. Their failures are almost invisible. This is certainly true of George Washington. During the French and Indian War and in many of the battles during the American Revolution, Washington's strategic decisions were, for the most part, disastrous. Whether by Divine

Providence or pure good luck, he somehow managed to come out victorious when all was said and done, if only in public opinion and not actually in reality. One biographer in particular notes how amazing it was that Washington managed to not only keep from being removed from command for his failures but that he managed to keep armies together at all!

It is believed that Washington's greatest strength was the unwavering, almost worshipful allegiance of his officers. With what was an uncommon height at the time (he was 6'3" tall) he was a stunning presence. He was known to be exceptionally charming. Upon meeting him, Abigail Adams (whose husband and fellow Founding Father, John Adams, was not among Washington's admirers) quoted what the Queen of Sheba is to have said upon meeting Solomon: "The half was not told me." But Washington's real success came not from his charisma; his success came from fearlessly examining his failures. The Black Moon in Virgo compulsively needs to find fault and though he was lauded as the hero of the French and Indian War, Washington did not feel he did as well as he could have. After returning to his tobacco farm in Virginia, he began a protracted process of self-examination and reflection that continued throughout his life. He analyzed where he had failed and the reasons why. The lessons he learned proved to be what enabled him to successfully lead the American Revolution and establish a nation based on the principles of liberty and justice for all.

Because the feeling of incapability is carried so closely to the heart of those with the Black Moon in Virgo, they tend to possess a unique form of humility that invariably engenders affection. Washington felt he was unfit for the role of Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and experienced an extreme level of anxiety and reluctance when he was unanimously elected to the post. At the ceremony, he spoke truthfully when he stated, "I beg that it may be remembered, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with." Washington was just being honest, but the paradoxical mystique of competence that infuses the Black Moon in Virgo only made him that much more endearing.

The internal battle of emotions that comes with the Black Moon in Virgo can be piercing and it often leads to chronic dissatisfaction. Despite his charismatic personality, Washington was something of a pessimist. Thomas Jefferson even noted that Washington was "inclined to gloomy apprehensions." This attitude seems to be the fuel that keeps the Black Moon in Virgo expecting the worst but working hard for the best. People with the Black Moon in Virgo have a keen eye for details; they find flaws and discrepancies like no other. This is often internalized,

causing their health to suffer. If Washington wasn't engaged in attending to the details of running his farm or commanding his army, he would become depressed and sick. Black Moon in Virgo turns on itself if its critical nature isn't channeled into something productive.

When considering the times in which he lived, by most accounts Washington's life is the pillar of success. He was admired by women and men alike – a living legend. He made friends with most everyone, but he also made friends with his shadow side. He dove into the core of his feelings of failure, bravely confronting himself as all heroes do, and came out on the other side strong enough to lead a ragtag band of revolutionaries and an infant nation in defiance of all the odds. Washington is a testament to what can happen when we take a look at our shadow side and see it for what it really is: untapped power cloaked in fear.

Nikola Tesla: The Scientist-Monk

Black Moon at 05 Libra 22 in the 6th House Opposing Jupiter

The man who discovered how to harness the power of the earth's forces did so by harnessing the power of his own shadow. There is no more an extreme example of the Black Moon in Libra than Nikola Tesla. Tesla's shadow didn't overtake him; Nikola Tesla overtook his shadow. He *became* his shadow. Tesla dove into the depths of darkness to literally bring light to the planet. This man, who loved to watch the marvels of lightning in an effort to understand the electrical forces of Nature that might one day illuminate the world, was in fact a "sun dodger." He never allowed himself to live in light, choosing instead to immerse himself in the dark void of creation in order to bring forth the sparks of invention.

The Black Moon in Libra involves the core fear of being separated and isolated. Tesla *purposefully* separated and isolated himself from others in order to (he believed) tap into the finer levels of consciousness and capture an understanding of the principles on which his inventions were based. Tesla's separation from others began in childhood, as he found boys his age did not share in his desire to delve into the mysteries of physics and machinations. After his death, close friends noted that he was unable to give or receive, being entirely adequate to his own needs. For Tesla, no one's contributions were invited or required because he believed himself richer in ideas than anyone else. It has been said that his greatest handicap was his inability to work with others.

Tesla engineered his life to function as a thinking and working machine. He eliminated love and romance from his life because he believed his solitary, celibate life was the price he had to pay for being able to understand and create from a higher level. He surpassed the ideas of even Plato, who envisioned a spiritual, non-physical companionship between men and women. Tesla went further than that. Despite intense interest from women, Tesla never married nor had romantic relationships. This is not due to any antagonism toward women; in fact, he attributed his amazing talents as an inheritance from his mother. But Tesla idealized women, putting them on a pedestal and out of his reach in order to maintain his separation from them. Tesla was regarded as wonderfully charming and social with a witty sense of humor, and he had a number of friends, including Mark Twain. But he refused to let even his closest friends enter very far into his life. He made himself completely self-sufficient in regard to the need for companionship.

Individuals with the Black Moon in Libra, with the shadow of perfection, often set very high standards for themselves and others. Tesla spoke eight languages fluently. He pushed himself extremely hard, allowing himself only four hours of “rest” each night, only two of which included sleep. He frequently complained of not having enough time to finish his work. If he was making a drawing of a design and had a slight slip of the pencil, he would start over instead of erasing. He depended only on his memory for details, not allowing himself the luxury of notes. He could recite many pieces of poetry and literature from memory, including *Faust*.

Perfection of appearance is often idealized with the Black Moon in Libra and Tesla took this tendency to the extreme. Nothing but perfection was acceptable. He was known as a meticulous dresser, dining only in white tie and tails at the private table reserved for him in the restaurant of whichever New York hotel he lived at the time. He reportedly did not have an extensive wardrobe, but the clothes he did have were impeccably tailored. Tesla was just over six feet tall, yet weighed only (exactly) 142 pounds for most of his adult life. He was intensely critical of other people’s appearance and made no secret of his distaste for people he considered overweight.

The shadow of perfection grew into what some believe was obsessive-compulsive disorder and phobias for Tesla. He had specific rituals for everything in his life, including meals. He was a “germaphobe” and would not shake hands with people. This was no doubt exacerbated by the fact that he was stricken with the contractible illnesses cholera and malaria as a young man.

Boundary issues are also something that accompanies the Black Moon in Libra. Tesla's boundary issues severely impacted his life, particularly his ability to financially support himself. Royalties and proceeds from patents eluded him and he died financially destitute. His friends attribute this mainly to the fact that he was too trusting of people. Tesla played card games as a young man, but always gave the money he won back to the other players. Unsurprisingly, this practice was not reciprocated. There was essentially "no boundary" to Tesla's imagination, which served him well with his inventions, but only led to a series of disappointments when it came to the practical matters of business.

Tesla's shadow side deeply affected his life and the transits of the Black Moon had profound effects on him. With his natal Black Moon in the Sixth House, it is no surprise that his tendency toward perfection and his attempts to maintain an inhuman standard directly contributed to three major illnesses where he almost lost his life. The first life-threatening illness occurred while the transiting Black Moon was conjunct his Ascendant; the second occurred during his Black Moon return. The third severe illness occurred when the transiting Black Moon opposed his natal Chiron. He also became severely ill upon the death of his beloved mother while the transiting Black Moon was conjunct his natal Mars. Tesla died when transiting Neptune conjunct his natal Black Moon and the transiting Black Moon was conjunct his natal Venus.

Tesla's life is an extreme example of the Black Moon in Libra. But it demonstrates the drive toward excellence and pursuit of the "ideal" that is so common with this placement. There are varying gradients of deprivation, isolation, and restriction with the Black Moon in Libra, but there is always some level of these that is self-imposed. It is interesting that one of his greatest discoveries, alternating current, essentially grew out of his keen ability to divide things into different "parts" – a classic trait of the Black Moon in Libra. Ironically, he was able to do this within the context of seeing the "whole" as a cycle. The ability to see both the balance of the "part" and the "whole" clearly contributed to his genius. Tesla, in his brilliance, was able to see the interconnectedness of everything in Nature; but, in his shadow, was never able to join it.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: Mistress of Theatre

07 Capricorn 31 in the 2nd House

Sometimes people's shadows form a sort of "shell" around them that appears as reserved detachment and noble self-control, but which truly serves as a buffer of protection and a mask against insecurities. Such is the case of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, who, with her natal Black Moon

in Capricorn expressed an intense need to control events. Her shadow was so pronounced that more than a few people described her more as an actress than a real person – the star attraction in the stage production that was the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

The core fear of the Black Moon in Capricorn is the fear of not being acknowledged or recognized. Jackie carefully crafted her persona to be someone who was *noticed*, controlling every detail of how she was viewed. She orchestrated her entrances into rooms to ensure maximum drama and attention. She trained her voice to sound like a child's whisper; so unusual was it that it could only have the effect of being noticed. Her voice also served to reinforce the role she played as “femme fatale” with a self-imposed helplessness that she often employed to control men. This choice of behavior was originally suggested by her father, “Black Jack” Bouvier, a notorious womanizer in the circles of New York society life. Jackie's relationship with her father was formative, complex, and described by her closer friends as semi-incestuous. She adored him, envisioning him as something of a swashbuckling pirate. Black Jack believed that women were sexual objects to be conquered, and he taught Jackie how a woman could manipulate and play games with a man to get what she wanted. In actuality, he taught her how to be aloof and detached without concern for her true feelings. Jackie was drawn to men like her father all of her life.

Jackie's overblown Black Moon in Capricorn resided in her second house and caused her greed to know no boundaries. Black Jack's fortune was severely affected by the stock market crash of 1929, which had a dramatic impact on Jackie. She and her sister lived in constant fear of poverty and the corresponding loss of their social standing. When Jackie was young, her mother divorced Black Jack and married a man who held a large interest in Standard Oil, thereby assuring her financial situation. Jackie was raised in “high society” and was named Debutante of the Year in 1947. Her life was engineered to be a certain way from a young age and money was the main undercurrent.

But contrary to the role of femme fatale that she projected, Jackie was a ruthless, formidable presence. In varying degrees, the Black Moon in Capricorn tends to be demanding and expects a lot from other people. Jackie's staff was fearful of her and people succumbed to the sheer force of her will. Friends knew that she didn't just *cut* people she was displeased with out of her life; she *sliced* them out with ease. At the slightest hint of disloyalty, one would find himself on the outs. Her retaliation could be brutal and her criticism could be biting. If someone did not comply with her wishes, she mercilessly teased him in public with the blade of her wit.

Jackie, a master of control, was also a master of public relations. She literally created the myth of the Kennedy life as “Camelot.” Upon the one year anniversary of her husband John F. Kennedy’s death, she wrote an article for a popular magazine and wove the story that would catapult the family into the mists of a fairy tale. Jackie was intelligent and well-read with a child-like imagination, which made her well-suited to the creation of the Kennedy legend.

A pivotal event in Jackie’s life occurred about five months after John F. Kennedy’s assassination. In an effort to control the way her husband would be remembered, she approached an author who had extensively written about (and seemed to idolize) President Kennedy and asked him to write an account of the assassination. She gave the author personal interviews (during sessions with many cigarettes and daiquiris) while the trauma was still very new. Jackie mistakenly believed she would have control over what he wrote and she experienced, for the first time, a dramatic drop in approval ratings when she entered into litigation to stop the publication of the book. The case became a tabloid sensation and the public believed Jackie was trying to censor the truth that they deserved. At the exact time of the book’s release, the transiting Moon was conjunct her natal Black Moon with the transiting Black Moon and the Sun conjunct her natal Uranus. It was quite a shock for her to have her most private thoughts exposed to the world at a time when she was very raw. Control of her image had eluded her.

Biographers widely speculate that the real love of Jackie’s life was her brother-in-law, Robert F. Kennedy, and it is reported that they engaged in affair after the President’s death. Bobby was a source of comfort for Jackie and she often sought his counsel. They seemed to understand and appreciate one another as no one else did. This is probably due to the fact that Jackie’s natal Sun was conjunct Bobby’s natal Black Moon, as the aspect often brings people the ability to recognize each other’s shadows and not be judgmental. Additionally, Bobby’s natal Chiron was conjunct Jackie’s natal Moon, showing that the relationship would cause pain. The day Bobby was assassinated the transiting Black Moon was conjunct Jackie’s Descendant and transiting Venus was conjunct her natal Jupiter. Interestingly, when Jackie wed Aristotle Onassis (just four months after Bobby’s death) the transiting Black Moon had come around to make the conjunction to her Jupiter, just as transiting Venus had done on the day Bobby was killed. Jackie’s rebound marriage to Onassis was unhappy. The transiting Black Moon through the seventh house cast a shadow over the marriage and the associated level of commitment of Onassis. As he had done throughout his life and also as John F. Kennedy had done, Onassis maintained mistresses and had affairs

throughout his marriage to Jackie. The marriage did bring financial security for herself and her children as well as a life out of the public eye of America.

Though her shadow and need for control was exaggerated and profoundly influential on her life, Jackie managed to keep it from spilling over into her children's life. To her credit, she gave her children tremendous freedom to grow and decide the course of their lives on their own. As she got older, she seemed to find a sense of peace in the publishing world with her work as an Editor, and appeared less interested in maintaining such rigid controls.

Appendix I

Abridged Black Moon Ephemeris

Jan 1 1900 - Aug 18 1900 Vir	Oct 21 1919 - Jul 16 1920 Sag
Aug 19 1900 - May 14 1901 Lib	Jul 17 1920 - Apr 10 1921 Cap
May 15 1901 - Feb 9 1902 Sco	Apr 11 1921 - Jan 4 1922 Aqu
Feb 10 1902 - Nov 5 1902 Sag	Jan 5 1922 - Oct 1 1922 Pis
Nov 6 1902 - Jul 31 1903 Cap	Oct 2 1922 - Jun 28 1923 Ari
Aug 1 1903 - Apr 25 1904 Aqu	Jun 29 1923 - Mar 23 1924 Tau
Apr 25 1904 - Jan 21 1905 Pis	Mar 24 1924 - Dec 16 1924 Gem
Jan 22 1905 - Oct 17 1905 Ari	Dec 17 1924 - Sep 12 1925 Can
Oct 18 1905 - Jul 12 1906 Tau	Sep 13 1925 - Jun 10 1926 Leo
Jul 13 1906 - Apr 7 1907 Gem	Jun 11 1926 - Mar 5 1927 Vir
Apr 8 1907 - Jan 3 1908 Can	Mar 6 1927 - Nov 28 1927 Lib
Jan 4 1908 - Sep 28 1908 Leo	Nov 29 1927 - Aug 24 1928 Sco
Sep 29 1908 - Jun 23 1909 Vir	Aug 25 1928 - May 22 1929 Sag
Jun 24 1909 - Mar 19 1910 Lib	May 23 1929 - Feb 14 1930 Cap
Mar 20 1910 - Dec 15 1910 Sco	Feb 15 1930 - Nov 9 1930 Aqu
Dec 16 1910 - Sep 11 1911 Sag	Nov 10 1930 - Aug 6 1931 Pis
Sep 12 1911 - Jun 5 1912 Cap	Aug 7 1931 - May 3 1932 Ari
Jun 6 1912 - Feb 28 1913 Aqu	May 4 1932 - Jan 26 1933 Tau
Mar 1 1913 - Nov 26 1913 Pis	Jan 27 1933 - Oct 21 1933 Gem
Nov 27 1913 - Aug 23 1914 Ari	Oct 22 1933 - Jul 18 1934 Can
Aug 24 1914 - May 18 1915 Tau	Jul 19 1934 - Apr 15 1935 Leo
May 19 1915 - Feb 10 1916 Gem	Apr 16 1935 - Jan 9 1936 Vir
Feb 11 1916 - Nov 7 1916 Can	Jan 10 1936 - Oct 3 1936 Lib
Nov 8 1916 - Aug 4 1917 Leo	Oct 4 1936 - Jun 29 1937 Sco
Aug 5 1917 - Apr 29 1918 Vir	Jun 30 1937 - Mar 27 1938 Sag
Apr 30 1918 - Jan 23 1919 Lib	Mar 28 1938 - Dec 21 1938 Cap
Jan 24 1919 - Oct 20 1919 Sco	Dec 22 1938 - Sep 15 1939 Aqu

Sep 16 1939 - Jun 10 1940 Pis	Aug 15 1959 - May 8 1960 Gem
Jun 11 1940 - Mar 8 1941 Ari	May 9 1960 - Jan 31 1961 Can
Mar 9 1941 - Dec 2 1941 Tau	Feb 1 1961 - Oct 29 1961 Leo
Dec 3 1941 - Aug 27 1942 Gem	Oct 30 1961 - Jul 26 1962 Vir
Aug 28 1942 - May 24 1943 Can	Jul 27 1962 - Apr 20 1963 Lib
May 25 1943 - Feb 18 1944 Leo	Apr 21 1963 - Jan 13 1964 Sco
Feb 19 1944 - Nov 14 1944 Vir	Jan 14 1964 - Oct 10 1964 Sag
Nov 15 1944 - Aug 8 1945 Lib	Oct 11 1964 - Jul 7 1965 Cap
Aug 9 1945 - May 5 1946 Sco	Jul 8 1965 - Apr 1 1966 Aqu
May 6 1946 - Jan 30 1947 Sag	Apr 2 1966 - Dec 25 1966 Pis
Jan 31 1947 - Oct 27 1947 Cap	Dec 26 1966 - Sep 22 1967 Ari
Oct 28 1947 - Jul 21 1948 Aqu	Sep 23 1967 - Jun 18 1968 Tau
Jul 22 1948 - Apr 16 1949 Pis	Jun 19 1968 - Mar 13 1969 Gem
Apr 17 1949 - Jan 11 1950 Ari	Mar 14 1969 - Dec 7 1969 Can
Jan 12 1950 - Oct 8 1950 Tau	Dec 8 1969 - Sep 3 1970 Leo
Oct 9 1950 - Jul 3 1951 Gem	Sep 4 1970 - May 31 1971 Vir
Jul 4 1951 - Mar 28 1952 Can	Jun 1 1971 - Feb 24 1972 Lib
Mar 29 1952 - Dec 23 1952 Leo	Feb 25 1972 - Nov 18 1972 Sco
Dec 24 1952 - Sep 19 1953 Vir	Nov 19 1972 - Aug 15 1973 Sag
Sep 20 1953 - Jun 14 1954 Lib	Aug 16 1973 - May 12 1974 Cap
Jun 15 1954 - Mar 10 1955 Sco	May 13 1974 - Feb 5 1975 Aqu
Mar 11 1955 - Dec 6 1955 Sag	Feb 6 1975 - Oct 31 1975 Pis
Dec 7 1955 - Aug 31 1956 Cap	Nov 1 1975 - Jul 27 1976 Ari
Sep 1 1956 - May 26 1957 Aqu	Jul 28 1976 - Apr 24 1977 Tau
May 27 1957 - Feb 19 1958 Pis	Apr 25 1977 - Jan 17 1978 Gem
Feb 20 1958 - Nov 17 1958 Ari	Jan 18 1978 - Oct 12 1978 Can
Nov 18 1958 - Aug 14 1959 Tau	Oct 13 1978 - Jul 9 1979 Leo

Jul 10 1979 - Apr 5 1980 Vir	Jun 6 1999 - Feb 29 2000 Sag
Apr 6 1980 - Dec 29 1980 Lib	Mar 1 2000 - Nov 25 2000 Cap
Dec 30 1980 - Sep 23 1981 Sco	Nov 26 2000 - Aug 22 2001 Aqu
Sep 24 1981 - Jun 20 1982 Sag	Aug 23 2001 - May 17 2002 Pis
Jun 21 1982 - Mar 18 1983 Cap	May 18 2002 - Feb 10 2003 Ari
Mar 19 1983 - Dec 12 1983 Aqu	Feb 11 2003 - Nov 7 2003 Tau
Dec 13 1983 - Sep 5 1984 Pis	Nov 8 2003 - Aug 3 2004 Gem
Sep 6 1984 - Jun 1 1985 Ari	Aug 4 2004 - Apr 28 2005 Can
Jun 2 1985 - Feb 27 1986 Tau	Apr 29 2005 - Jan 22 2006 Leo
Feb 28 1986 - Nov 23 1986 Gem	Jan 23 2006 - Oct 19 2006 Vir
Nov 24 1986 - Aug 18 1987 Can	Oct 20 2006 - Jul 17 2007 Lib
Aug 19 1987 - May 13 1988 Leo	Jul 18 2007 - Apr 10 2008 Sco
May 14 1988 - Feb 8 1989 Vir	Apr 11 2008 - Jan 3 2009 Sag
Feb 9 1989 - Nov 4 1989 Lib	Jan 4 2009 - Sep 30 2009 Cap
Nov 5 1989 - Jul 30 1990 Sco	Oct 1 2009 - Jun 28 2010 Aqu
Jul 31 1990 - Apr 25 1991 Sag	Jun 29 2010 - Mar 23 2011 Pis
Apr 26 1991 - Jan 21 1992 Cap	Mar 24 2011 - Dec 16 2011 Ari
Jan 22 1992 - Oct 16 1992 Aqu	Dec 17 2011 - Sep 12 2012 Tau
Oct 17 1992 - Jul 11 1993 Pis	Sep 13 2012 - Jun 9 2013 Gem
Jul 12 1993 - Apr 6 1994 Ari	Jun 10 2013 - Mar 4 2014 Can
Apr 7 1994 - Jan 2 1995 Tau	Mar 5 2014 - Nov 27 2014 Leo
Jan 3 1995 - Sep 29 1995 Gem	Nov 28 2014 - Aug 25 2015 Vir
Sep 30 1995 - Jun 23 1996 Can	Aug 26 2015 - May 21 2016 Lib
Jun 24 1996 - Mar 19 1997 Leo	May 22 2016 - Feb 13 2017 Sco
Mar 20 1997 - Dec 14 1997 Vir	Feb 14 2017 - Nov 9 2017 Sag
Dec 15 1997 - Sep 10 1998 Lib	Nov 10 2017 - Aug 6 2018 Cap
Sep 11 1998 - Jun 5 1999 Sco	Aug 7 2018 - May 3 2019 Aqu

<u>Sign</u>	<u>Shadow</u>	<u>Fear</u>	<u>Issues</u>
Aries	Shadow of Success	unworthiness	identity, self-esteem
Taurus	Shadow of Security	scarcity	insecurity, consumption
Gemini	Shadow of Acceptance	rejection	liked/disliked by others
Cancer	Shadow of Support	abandonment	dependency, neediness
Leo	Shadow of Order	change	arrogance, self-centered
Virgo	Shadow of Ability	failure	self-criticism, overwork
Libra	Shadow of Perfection	loneliness/ isolation	perfectionism, boundaries
Scorpio	Shadow of Death	loss	winning-losing, death – endings
Sagittarius	Shadow of Truth	meaninglessness	honesty, dishonesty
Capricorn	Shadow of Control	neglect	control, attention- seeking behavior
Aquarius	Shadow of Power	powerlessness	power struggles, self- discipline
Pisces	Shadow of Trust	vulnerability	trust in others/God

ASTROLOGY

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There has been a missing piece in astrology – the nature of the Black Moon. This mysterious astrological body has been hidden in the shadows and mixed in misconceptions. The Astrology of the Black Moon: A Guide to Healing the Shadow Side pinpoints the shadow side – the fractured part of the psyche that harbors a primary fear and keeps us locked in repetitive, self-sabotaging cycles of behavior. When the shadow side is identified and healed, we become whole and our untapped potential is liberated.

The Astrology of the Black Moon: A Guide to Healing the Shadow Side is the complete reference on the Black Moon in the signs, houses, aspects, and transits. It reveals:

- the primary fear that blocks or undermines us
- the fundamental way we judge ourselves and others
- the cycles of personal "death" and "rebirth"
- how we heal the shadow side
- how we know true love

Case studies and practical recommendations give you the keys to understanding the Black Moon and her powerful astrological influence – which is precise in its timing.

"Insightful! Laura has captured the essence of the Black Moon and provides us with a powerful tool to shine the light on our deep seated fears. Once revealed, big leaps in consciousness are possible."

-Douglas Fleckman, CCN

"Laura is an incredible and soulful person with an amazing gift for astrology. The insight she provides is extremely beneficial in helping someone to understand what is going on in their personal or professional life. This relevant and timely information has not only provided guidance for me but also our students, consultants and instructors. I feel blessed to have such a wonderful resource in Laura!"

-Kim Shotola
Executive Director of The Lightfoot Way

LAURA WALKER is a Counseling Astrologer and holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Education. Specializing in the healing and integration of the shadow side, Laura combines her expertise in crisis counseling with her practice of astrology to guide clients through difficult cycles in life. She maintains The Oracle Report website, www.oraclereport.com, offering daily energetic interpretations to navigate our rapidly-changing times. For personal consultations, contact her at laura@oraclereport.com.

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