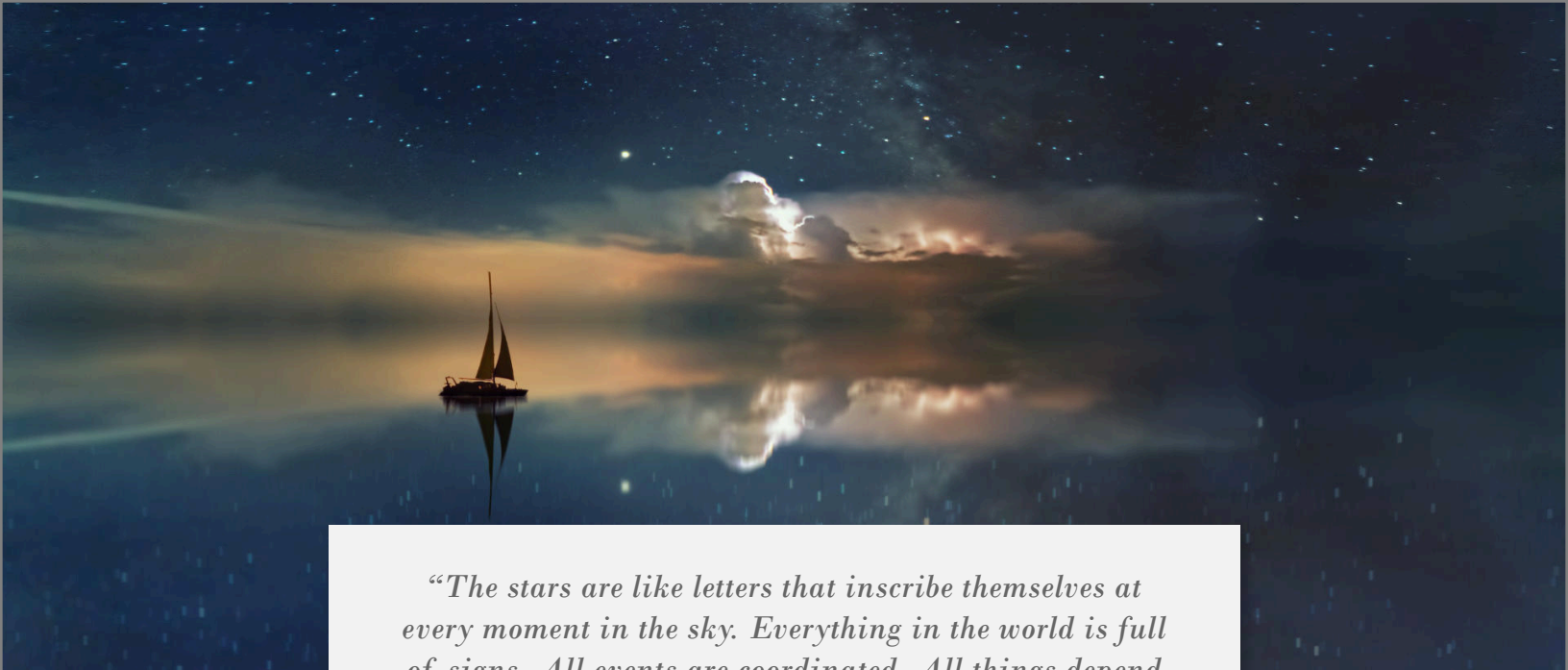




☆ *Starshine* ☆
TRANSIT GUIDES



“The stars are like letters that inscribe themselves at every moment in the sky. Everything in the world is full of signs. All events are coordinated. All things depend on each other. Everything breathes together.”

- PLOTINUS

Astrology invites you to see archetypally, experience the synchronistic alignment between the planets and human events, understand the human condition a little better, and gain enough freedom through insight to make more satisfying choices.

TRANSIT GUIDES

HOW TO FIND YOUR PERSONAL TRANSITS EACH MONTH

- Look at your natal planets, nodes, and angles, and note their locations by degree (you can use the worksheet on the next page). Go to astro.com to cast your free chart if you don't have one.
- Look at the transiting planets this month and find any matching degree (the number) to any of your natal chart points. You can find the current transiting planets at astro.com.
- If a transiting planet matches the degree of a point in your chart, write it down along with the planet in your chart it shares a degree with. Don't worry about the signs - you'll address those next. If your degree match is close but not exact, consult the Orbs section on page 7.
- Next, use the chart on page 8 to determine the angle or aspect and write it between the transiting and natal planet. Use the "Aspect Guide" on page 7 if you want to use the aspect glyphs.
- Use the "Planetary Archetypes" section on pages 4-6 and "Ranking Transits by Importance" on pages 8-9 to understand your personal transits.
- A personalized transit reading by an experienced astrologer would give you information you can't find here, but I encourage you to dive in and track the astrological transits for yourself. You are the best mediator of your life, and there is a richness and subtlety that comes with following the astrological seasons directly for yourself! Keep a journal, and enjoy the ride!

☆ YOUR ☆

NATAL PLANETS

Find your natal horoscope or use a free service online like astro.com to cast your chart. You will need your birth date, accurate birth time (preferably from a birth certificate), and birth place. Then write down the degree (number) and sign for each of these points:

☉ **Sun:**

☾ **Moon:**

♊ **North Node:**

♋ **South Node:**

Asc **Ascendant:**

MC **Midheaven:**

Dsc **Descendant:**

IC **Imum Coeli:**

☿ **Mercury:**

♀ **Venus:**

♂ **Mars:**

♃ **Jupiter:**

♄ **Saturn:**

♅ **Chiron:**

♁ **Uranus:**

♆ **Neptune:**

♇ **Pluto:**

YOUR PERSONAL TRANSITS

Use the chart on page 8 to help determine transit aspects. The 0-1 degree alignments are the most powerful, while the 2-5 degree alignments move into the background (sometimes adding emphasis or flavoring to other transits).

Transiting Planet	Aspect	Natal Planet/Point	At 0-1° Orb	At 5° Orb
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PLANETARY ARCHETYPES

“...we can define an archetype as a universal principle or force that affects—impels, structures, permeates—the human psyche and the world of human experience on many levels. One can think of them in mythic terms as gods and goddesses... as primordial principles... cultural tendencies... principles of the human psyche...” —RICHARD TARNAS [1]

The archetypes are multivalent and multi-dimensional, manifesting sometimes in concurrent layers like dream symbols. Sometimes they play out in very literalistic ways, other times in sophisticated developmental psychological arcs. Learning to see archetypally will enrich your understanding of human culture and experience, even if you never pursue astrology as a technical art.

☉ **Sun:** Life force, Life Purpose, vitality, Self, local representative of Great Mystery, solar logos, and site of Underworld catalytic transformation.

☾ **Moon:** Soul, family lineage, mother, parenting, nurturance, care taking, food, a place of deep inner comfort (this is where you go to recharge), thus typically a place of well-developed familiarity associated with the past, karma, your attachments.

☿ **Mercury:** Mind, intellect, communication, gossip, writing, speaking, pop culture, messenger, boundary-crosser, transportation, friendship; the deeper esoteric Hermetic, alchemical, and gnostic dimensions occur less often by natal configuration along the lines of Mercury's phases).

Mercury's Phases:

1. Hermetic Mercury: Mercury Rx exact conjunct the Sun (start of Mercury cycle)
2. Messenger of the Gods: Mercury Rx in morning sky (transmits Hermetic truths) >10 degrees west of Sun
3. Mercury at the Stillpoint: Mercury Sx in the morning sky (suspended in time out of time)
4. Morning Sky Mercury: Mercury Dx in morning sky (understands thought)
5. Psychopomp Mercury: Mercury Dx conjunct the Sun (makes meaning) <10 degrees from Sun, direct
6. Evening Sky Mercury: Mercury Dx in evening sky (develops thought) >10 degrees east of Sun
7. Trickster Mercury: Mercury Rx in evening sky (breaks the rules)
8. The Archivist: Mercury Rx conjunct the Sun 10 degrees (revisits the past) <10 degrees east of Sun

New information about Mercury is emerging in synchronistic timing with the close alignment between the June 2021 solar eclipse in Gemini and the start of the Master Mercury cycle (retrograde conjunct Sun and North Node)

🔗 **Tracking the full Mercury Cycle here:** <https://alittlemorefree.com/starshine/2021-2022-mercury-cycle/>

♀ **Venus:** Love, magnetism, beauty, arts, archetypal feminine, the Goddess, your capacity to attract to yourself based on your love and your being.

♂ **Mars:** Agency, action, competition, fighting spirit, desire, archetypal masculine, the God, your capacity to identify what you want and your power to achieve it.

♃ **Jupiter:** Universal ideals, generosity, faith, belief, religion, politics, higher education, expansion, grandiosity of spirit, and facilitates spiritual growth. By transit, it expands, amplifies, “biggie-sizes,” glorifies, elevates toward humanitarian ideals and cultural celebration, brings justice, truth, beauty of expansive vision. Strategy: Dream big, adopt great generosity, stretch forth your hand, seek win-win solutions in the real world.

[1] Tarnas, R. (2007). In *Cosmos and psyche: Intimations of a new world view* (p. 84). Penguin USA.

♄ **Saturn:** Structure, hierarchy, control, time, maturation, physical laws of the universe, responsibility, restriction, judgment, cultural Super Ego, father, CEO, the rules, conservatism, stability. By transit, Saturn guides maturation (rights of passage), manifests in 3D, pressures a restructuring toward a greater functionality and alignment with Life Purpose, blocks and denies that which is not in alignment, and finally, crystallizes. Of course, on the way to all this ideal purpose, it often frustrates, depresses, blocks, and fills us with an overwhelming sense of unfairness and impossibility! Ha ha. Strategy: Focus, work on a solution to your problems which actually, believe it or not, exists right now (Saturn is not unreasonable, just a strict teacher spurring you to action)! Consult experts, use logic, trial-and-error. Finally, commit to a course of action.

♆ **Chiron:** Location of the Sacred Wound, key vulnerability which drives your authenticity, refines your soul by spinning straw into gold. May never be “healed,” but creates a refined spirit, imperfection as a deeper kind of beauty. At its best, may be resolved at a higher octave in a state of mastery. By transit, Chiron wounds, makes ill, limits, grinds down the ego, but also educates, confers mastery. Strategy: surrender, be willing to be vulnerable, find what gifts you may in your illness or limitation, you will find your solutions after you surrender.

♅ **Uranus:** Where you find intellectual and spiritual freedom, liberation, rebellion, innovation brilliance, breaking of status quo structures and norms, alienation, estrangement, and isolation from emotional warmth. By transit, Uranus strikes with sudden and shocking clarity, tears down the known, destroys, liberates, frees, overturns, enlightens, changes the game, surprises, breaks through. Strategy: embrace change!

♆ **Neptune:** Where you connect with eternity, universal love, ecstasy with the timeless space of unity and the sacred, where you lose yourself for better or for worse, where your perspective blurs, where you seek dissolution, where you stumble into addiction, where you create illusions of exquisite beauty (as in art) or damaging delusions. By transit, Neptune inspires both creatively and spiritually, calls from across the timeless ocean, and if ignored, lays you flat so you can listen. Strategy: go with the flow, go on a Vision Quest, don't expect your magical journey to outlast the transit. Do not sign contracts, buy or sell land, or make any major 3D decisions until after it's over.

♇ **Pluto:** Where you find your power, and where your psyche seeks wholeness by retrieving and transforming lost soul force from the unconscious, a process often but not always characterized by deep, intense, cathartic, even agonizing surprises. When Pluto transits, it tends to sneak up and strike from your blind spot so as to activate your deepest emotions, forcing you to integrate lost parts of yourself. Experiences can be very dark or very light depending on the nature of the denied and repressed content, but in the end leave you more alive and empowered. Strategy: make a list of all your deepest hopes and fears and then rest assured none of those will happen; grab the bull by the horns and go for the ride!

♋ **North Node:** Destiny, purpose, spiritual growth, personal evolution. House position is more important than sign unless there are angles or planets nearby (planets within 15 degrees are part of the North Node). Early in life this may be dormant or severely underdeveloped, in early and middle adulthood, a site of chaos and mistakes but lots of learning and growth, and emerging in later adulthood and elderhood a place of focus, purpose, and competency.

♌ **South Node:** Lineage, past mastery. Early in life this may be an area of special talent or interest but moved away from as life progresses. Always available as a resource to draw upon. House position is more important than sign unless there are angles or planets nearby (planets within 15 degrees are included in South Node alignment). Planets in particular indicate areas of past mastery or talent. Sign tends to indicate karma, if any.

Asc Ascendant: Where the Eastern horizon intersects the ecliptic at birth. Personal identity, tends to manifest as a gestalt of both personality and lifestyle, sense of self, default reaction to events (the Ascendant is the cusp of the first house which is deeply instinctive and prone to reflexive action). Planets

within 10 degrees manifest in the life at a top tier level of importance. The first house is one of the four angular houses which are also very prominent.

MC Midheaven: Generally understood as the noon sun position, this is where the ecliptic and local meridian (north to south line across the sky) intersect, usually not straight overhead (zenith) unless at lower latitudes at certain times of year. Often associated with career, this can be thought of more generally as your area of prominence, what you're known for in the community at large, whether that's your local community or the global community. Often people are known as their jobs or roles: doctor, police chief, mayor, but they might also be known as an activist, as so-and-so's mom, or "that crazy lady at the health food store." Planets within 10 degrees manifest in the life at a top tier level of importance. Some house systems always make this the cusp of the tenth house. The tenth house is one of the four angular houses which are also very prominent.

Dsc Descendant: Where the Western horizon intersects the ecliptic at birth. Relationships, partnerships in personal life and business, both I-thou and peer-related groups, diplomacy and cooperation are keys here, following more than leading, listening more than acting, at its highest potential here is where you can come to respect all places on the wheel and make space for all human experience. At its lowest, here is where you lose your identity and get dominated by the Other. Planets within 10 degrees are very important, though not as public as those on the Ascendant and Midheaven. The Descendant is the cusp of the seventh house, one of the four angular houses and more prominent overall.

IC Imum Coeli: Generally understood as the midnight sun position, this is where the ecliptic and local meridian line intersect on the opposite side of the Earth from you at the time of birth. Often associated with home and family, this can be thought of more generally as a deep place of inner connection, grounding, and centering within the psyche. You feel "home" here. It is more private, interior, and less visible than the other angles, thus planets within 10 degrees are important psychologically but might be less obvious to those who don't know you in your private life. Some house systems always make this the cusp of the fourth house which is one of the four angular houses and generally more prominent.

PERSONAL VS OUTER PLANETS

- The "personal planets" are the fast-movers: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars. We also include the nodes and angles (Asc, MC, Dsc, IC).
- The "outer planets" are the slow-movers: Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.
- Jupiter is a special case. Read "Ranking Transits by Importance" for more.

ZODIACAL ARCHETYPES (SIGNS)

The zodiacal archetypes, also known as astrological signs, provide a rich and nuanced understanding of human experience, growth, and potential. You can spend a whole life learning the depths and layered meanings and multitude expressions of the astrological archetypes without ever casting a chart or learning astrology. For now, here are a few guides for beginning to work with them.

Modalities – There are three groupings composed of four signs which oppose and square each other. Because of this cross-like alignment, it's handy to call them the Worldly Householder Cross, also known as the Cardinal signs; the Cross of Sovereign Experience, also known as the Fixed signs; the Cross of Service to Spirit, also known as the Mutable signs.

- Householder Cross: Aries the Warrior guardian of the world order, Cancer the Nurturer guardian of the domestic sphere, Libra the Partner guardian of the social order, and Capricorn the Manager guardian of the public sphere.
- Cross of Sovereign Experience: Taurus the Embodied Spirit in love with matter, Leo the Star in love with being an inspiration, Scorpio the Jedi in love with wielding power and life force, Aquarius the Visionary in love with brilliant emancipatory thought.
- Cross of Service to Spirit: Gemini the Witness to thought transmission, Virgo the Precision weaver of the sacred order of things, Sagittarius the Seeker of meaning and far horizons, Pisces the Inspired receptacle of creative vision or mystical union.
- Note that these descriptions attempt to capture some of the core intent of the zodiacal archetypes, and don't go into detail about their shadow or oppressed expressions, nor all the great richness and variety of their archetypal expressions.

Elements – The elemental nature of the signs may be more familiar: fire, earth, air, water. Remembering the elemental order will help you to remember the sequence of all the signs. Say it outloud to yourself, it'll stick in your head! I learned this almost 40 years ago and still use it: *fire, earth, air, water, fire, earth, air, water, fire, earth, air, water* – this repeats three times from Aries to Pisces: The spring signs Fire (Aries), Earth (Taurus), Air (Gemini); the summer signs Water (Cancer), Fire (Leo), Earth (Virgo); the fall signs Air (Libra), Water (Scorpio), Fire (Sagittarius); the winter signs Earth (Capricorn), Air (Aquarius), Water (Pisces).

ASPECT GUIDE

♌ Conjunction 0° – direct trigger, unification alignment, blending of energies. Most important, together with oppositions.

♋ Opposition 180° – awareness trigger, highlighting alignment, full moon type energies, planets opposite the sun will be closest to the Earth at the opposition. Most important aspect after conjunctions.

□ Square 90° – conflict trigger, if – but – struggle – tension, structural alignment, meditate on the four major phases of the moon: New, First Quarter, Full, Last Quarter. Less important than conjunctions and oppositions, but still dynamic and activating.

△ Trine 120° – harmonious blending of archetypes, fortuitous potential requiring a bit more choice to engage (whereas the conjunctions, oppositions, and squares tend to force themselves into activation).

♊ Quincunx 150° – difficult, lack of understanding, angle of separation or adjustment; used primarily with long-lasting outer planet transits.

* Sextile 60° – help and assistance; used primarily with long-lasting outer planet transits.

ORBS (WINDOWS OF ACTIVATION)

Transits operate during an active window, called an “orb,” which peaks around the exact alignment, but which tapers off before and after the alignment in a wave of intensity.

- For faster planets transiting the natal chart, the period during the exact alignment and 1 degree to either side represents the peak. With outer planets, there can be 3-5 exact alignments over a several year period, and the start and end of this period would be the fully active window for the transit. The 2-5 degree window leading up to and following this period acts more like a background archetypal signature, sort of like a mood, which can emphasize or color other transits during the same period.

- Conjunctions and oppositions between outer planets and other outer planets (universal, not natal transits) follow a wider orb. For Pluto, Uranus, and Neptune, 15 degrees generally works. For Saturn and Jupiter, 10 degrees tends to be more appropriate. Squares and trines use a smaller 5–6 degree orb unless other outer planet alignments are occurring in which case the orb can expand up to 15 degrees.
- Solar underworld cycles (solar conjunctions) operate during an approximately 10 degree orb.

USE THIS CHART TO DETERMINE THE ASPECT BETWEEN PLANETS WITH A CLOSE DEGREE MATCH

PLANET	♋ CONJUNCT	♌ OPPOSITE	♍ SQUARE	♎ TRINE	♏ QUINCUNX	*SEXTILE
Aries	Aries	Libra	Cancer or Capricorn	Leo or Sagittarius	Virgo or Scorpio	Gemini or Aqu
Taurus	Taurus	Scorpio	Leo or Aquarius	Virgo or Capricorn	Libra or Sag	Cancer or Pisc
Gemini	Gemini	Sagittarius	Virgo or Pisces	Libra or Aquarius	Scorpio or Cap	Leo or Aries
Cancer	Cancer	Capricorn	Libra or Aries	Scorpio or Pisces	Sagittarius or Aq	Virgo or Taur
Leo	Leo	Aquar	Scorpio or Taurus	Sagittarius or Aries	Cap or Pisces	Libra or Gemini
Virgo	Virgo	Pisces	Sagittarius or Gemini	Capricorn or Taurus	Aquarius or Aries	Scorpio or Canc
Libra	Libra	Aries	Capricorn or Cancer	Aquarius or Gemini	Pisces or Taurus	Sag or Leo
Scorpio	Scorpio	Taurus	Aquarius or Leo	Pisces or Cancer	Aries or Gemini	Virgo or Capric
Sagittarius	Sagittarius	Gemini	Pisces or Virgo	Aries or Leo	Taurus or Cancer	Libra or Aqu
Capricorn	Capricorn	Cancer	Aries or Libra	Taurus or Virgo	Gemini or Leo	Pisces or Scorpio
Aquarius	Aquarius	Leo	Taurus or Scorpio	Gemini or Libra	Cancer or Virgo	Aries or Sag
Pisces	Pisces	Virgo	Gemini or Sagittarius	Cancer or Scorpio	Leo or Libra	Taurus or Cap

For close degree matches that span the end or beginning of a sign, you'll need the graphical chart wheel (use your own) to help figure it out (for example, 2 degrees Pisces squares 29 degrees Taurus, but you might need to see it visually to get it). Just remember that there are 30 degrees in a sign and that degrees go from 0 to 29°59' and then flip over to 0 degrees of the next sign.

RANKING TRANSITS BY IMPORTANCE:

Transits of Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto to personal planets, nodes, or angles are the most important of the transits and most professional astrology transit readings will only focus on these. Conjunction and opposition rank at the top, followed by square, and then trine. Outer planet transits to outer natal planets can prove monumentally important when combined with outer planet transits to personal natal planets.

Transits of Jupiter are trickier to weigh. They do not have the impact that Saturn transits do on the natal chart, despite the fact that Jupiter is the largest object in the solar system except for the sun. In fact, Jupiter is bigger than all of the other planets, moons, and asteroids combined! Use a 15 degree orb for natal transits, unlike other transits which use a 0–5 degree max orb. Where Jupiter shows up vividly is when it aligns with outer planets or adds its weight to a longer-lasting outer planet alignment. A perfect example is the “perfect storm” of 2020 when Jupiter joined Saturn and Pluto and remained within orb near them for the year. Jupiter can usher in life-changing periods, but tends to do so primarily in combination with other outer planet transits, as well as for those comfortable with Jupiter strategy: Dream big, adopt great generosity, stretch forth your hand, look for win-win solutions in the here-and-now.

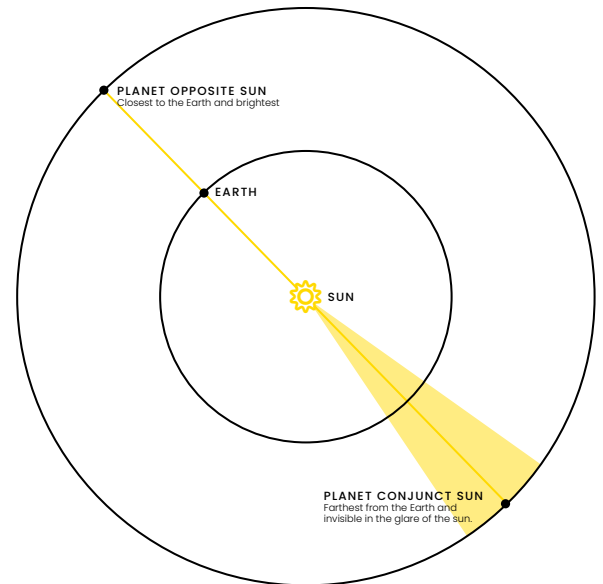
Transits of Mercury, Venus, and Mars are also short-lived, lasting at most a few weeks (use a 5 degree orb) but centering on the day or two at the exact alignment. The exception is synodic phase returns, which are an advanced topic. Journal about events and moods during this window. As with the Sun and Moon, conjunctions are the most important, followed by oppositions, squares, and trines.

Transits of the Sun and Moon tend to be short-lived and often subtle, with some notable exceptions:

- When a conjunction from the Sun activates an existing longer-term transit either that you personally are experiencing or that's happening globally, its influence can act like a significant amplifier for a week or two (approx 5 degree orb but focused intensely around the exact alignment).
- When the Moon does the same, the effect is more subtle but still noticeable. The orb of influence seems to mirror the Earth-based experiential perception of the moon's phases which tends to separate them into roughly 8 phases of 3-4 days each. Similarly, the moon's focus wave intensifies during a 2-3 day window around the alignment, with an emphasis on the applying (day leading up to the conjunction).
- The solar return during which the Sun conjuncts your natal Sun happens every year on your birthday.

Some people work with the chart of that moment – the Solar Return chart – as kind of a snapshot for the coming year.

- Transiting solar oppositions to transiting planets are kind of special. Like the Full Moon, they highlight and magnify a planet. For all but the Moon, we are closest to that planet during solar opposition, so this represents a unique moment during the year when that planet will appear at its brightest to us. (Not applicable to personal transits from the sun).
- Transiting planets conjunct the transiting sun are also in a special phase, as they disappear in the glare of the sun during that time. Astronomers call this "occultation by the sun." Invisible at any time of day or night, they can be thought of as entering the Underworld where they will pass out of the realm of consciousness and into the realm of visceral experience where intent and desire intersect with transformational forces. There are many mythic stories of death and rebirth which revolve around these Underworld phases. (Not applicable to personal transits from the sun).
- Mercury and Venus have additional unique phases of their cycles during which they align with the sun, such as the Gates of Venus. These will be explored separately.



Questions?

Email katy@katymorikawa.com. Or post them on my blog at katymorikawa.com

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