



A Witch's Primer

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Lesson 13: Timing Spells

Please note, that when I recorded the audio for this lesson, I was still teaching a more common practice of timing spells. Please refer to this recap below for updated information on the dark moon as it is more in line with my current practice and teachings.

As a farmer would never attempt to plant out of season, so it is with spell-casting. Need always supersedes everything. If something is important and needs to be taken care of, don't worry about the phase of the moon or the day of the week. To fine-tune your spell work, it is better to go with the magical tides that are always present. In order to locate the position of the moon and other planets, you may want to purchase an astrological calendar.

The Lunar Cycle: The moon, just like the sun and the planets in our solar system, appears to rise in the east and set in the west. When the sun and moon are rising and setting together, at the same time, what the astrologers would call conjunct, the moon is invisible to our eye. We call this the dark moon. Astrologers and astronomers and a lot of witches call this the new moon but we call it the dark moon. What we call the new moon is actually a couple of days after the dark moon, when the moon appears as a visible tiny crescent, setting in the west just after the sun setting. The moon rises about 58 minutes later every night than the previous night.

This means that approximately one week after that dark moon, the moon will be directly overhead as the sun is setting, appearing as a half-moon, rounded on the right. This is completing what we would call the first quarter of the moon, from dark to half-moon.

About a week after this half-moon, two weeks after the dark moon, the moon will be rising right as the sun is setting. At this phase, the sunlight is reflected completely off the face of the moon and it appears as a full moon. The full moon completes the second quarter of the moon. That is the first half of the entire lunar cycle, those two quarters.

This entire two-week phase, from the dark moon to the full moon, is known as the waxing moon, and this is called the waxing moon because of the fact that the moon appears to increase, or wax in size, waxing from dark to light.

About a week after the full moon, the moon will rise in the east right in the middle of the night. It appears once more as a half-moon, but this time it's rounded on the left side. This is completing the third quarter of the moon.

Just under a week after completing that third quarter, the moon appears as a tiny, little crescent with its horns pointing to the right and rising just prior to sunset. The old term for this is the old moon. A day or two after the old moon, the entire 28-day cycle is completed as the moon returns to the dark. That ends the fourth quarter of the moon.

That period of time between the full moon and the dark moon is referred to as the waning moon. That's because the appearance of the moon is decreasing or waning in size. Just understanding the moon cycle will start to give you an insight into our monthly witch cycle.

Basic steps to timing your spells: There is a series of steps to take to determine the perfect time to cast your spell. The first, most important one is the phase of the moon. The second most important step would be the day of the week. The third most important step would be the time of day or planetary hour. After that, you could even go into looking at the sign of the moon, if you wanted to get really technical. The moon phase is of primary importance but the day of the week would be another good one after that. Possibly after that the planetary hour.

The moon phase: The moon phase is the most important factor in spell-casting. Spells cast during the waxing moon primarily are those that deal with increase and expansion, whereas spells cast during the waning moon deal with decrease and introspection. If you wanted to break the phases into quarters, the first quarter you might do the first phase, brand new projects, germinations and beginnings. Second quarter – growth, cultivation, achievement, completion. Third quarter is harvest or taking profit, starting to weed out old ideas. The fourth quarter is definitely weeding out old ideas, pulling away, releasing, reflecting, and banishing. The new moon is always about new beginnings. The full moon is always about full power of completion. The new moon is your most powerful day to do shellwork. The new moon is the second most powerful day to do things. The dark moon is a time of rest.

The new moon: new beginnings
The full moon: completion
The old moon: banishing
The dark moon: rest from magic.

Days of the week:
The information is available on the Witch's Primer handouts.

Planet Week: Spend each day during one or more weeks, wearing the colors of the planet for the day, and meditate on the planet in your morning meditation, you could find the glyph for the planets and use it as an object of meditation, you can use the essential oils or perfumes that are sacred to each planet.

Planetary hour: You can find a website that calculates the planetary hours. When you're doing a spell, remember that when you start the spell is what matters. For instance, if you're doing a spell for increasing business, as long as you start it on a Thursday, then it's going to continue having the energy of Jupiter, even though you're doing it for two more days after that. Using the planetary days and hours, you can increase planetary energy by doing a spell on the day and the hour of a planet, or you can combine energies by choosing a day to be the primary energy and a planetary hour that also supports the spell-work.

Become in tune with the phases of the moon and with what the planets represent for each day of the week, and what they mean for you.