

May

2014

A Month of Astrologically Inspired Journaling and Ritual

After April's cosmic storm, we sail into May's relatively calmer waters. That's not to say we're in the clear just yet — we still have a powerful Full Moon in Scorpio to get through — but we've passed through the more intense leg of our journey. Time to enjoy Taurus season! Think flowers, fertility, pleasure, and the bounty of the natural world. May starts with Beltane and May Day after all, one of the four sacred fire festivals marking the midpoint between the seasons. By the end of the month we're onto Gemini, the sign that teaches us about movement, communication, and curiosity.

MAY 2: VENUS ENTERS ARIES



After four weeks in Pisces, a sign that she is quite at home in, Venus will enter Aries. This is admittedly not the coziest placements for Venus. Usually quite demure and peace loving, she'll now be in the sign of the warrior. During this time we may feel emboldened, pushing our agenda through without diplomacy. Traditional astrologers would say that she is in her detriment, which is to say that she is in the sign opposite she rules (Libra). But Venus in Aries is also the archetype of a bold, take charge woman — uncompromising and able to do quite well where others do not have the fortitude.

MAY 7: MERCURY ENTERS GEMINI



Not too long after Venus trades signs, Mercury will enter Gemini. Whereas Venus is traditionally weakened in some signs, Mercury will be quite strong in Gemini. Over the next few weeks, we will be chatty, inquisitive, and have an appetite for information. Since Gemini is also

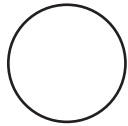
the sign of the twins, events may come in pairs or have a strong theme of duality.

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Bevin's Activity — Inquisition Exercise: Use Mercury in Gemini to interview people. First, brainstorm a list of people you're curious about. Maybe they're a friend of a friend who hiked the Appalachian trail. Maybe it's someone whose career you admire. A family member who holds ancestral stories that are unrecorded. This energy is a great time to ask for this info, whether by phone call, in person or email. People love talking about themselves and are generally generous with information. Follow your curiosity!

Activity duration: Over the next two weeks

MAY 14: FULL MOON IN SCORPIO



Full moons already have a bit of a reputation for emotional highs and confrontations. But a full moon in Scorpio? The sign of death and rebirth? Eesh. On top of that, Mars, the planet that rules the full moon, is stationed right on the ongoing Uranus/Pluto square.

Not that we should ever be nervous about what's going on in the skies, but know that this is the sort of energy that primes us for transformation. Full moons also bring matters to a head and resolution.

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Bevin's Activity — Full Moon Darkness Exercise: Scorpio is about our shadow selves. During the last few months the tense astrology has tested us. It's time to see the darkness from that time and acknowledge its importance. We need those rainstorms to get to the rainbow. Journal the following: What were your biggest struggles in the past six months? What feelings were the most uncomfortable? Where are you at now? Can you see any ways in which the uncomfortable feelings shepherded you to where you are now? What would you need in order to burn off the last vestiges of your struggle?

Activity duration: Around May 14

MAY 19: MARS DIRECT



Finally, after two and a half months retrograde, Mars turns direct! If you are an Aries or a Scorpio, this hasn't been the most ideal time for you as your ruling planet ebbs and pulls you inward. And this hasn't been the most ideal time to get anything started. Mars retrograde has a habit of making all our grand plans sputter along like a car on an empty gas tank. But if Mars is our get-up-and-go, the direct motion will give us a much needed boost of fuel. Just take it a little easy on the gas pedal,

okay? Also note that Mars stationing direct will flood the collective with Martian energy. Think aggression and assertiveness. Try not to start a war.

MAY 20: SUN ENTERS GEMINI



Leaving the slow place of Taurus behind, the Sun's entry into Gemini, the sign of the twins, will put us in the fast lane, especially with Mars holding steady in Libra. Expect the last quarter of May to be quite busy, from a constant buzz of information to spirited talks and debates. Gemini always makes me think of the moment when babies learn to crawl. Suddenly the world expands as far as their little legs can take them. Everything grabs their attention and everything must be touched as well as tasted. Allowing this to be your inspiration. Get curious!

MAY 28: NEW MOON IN GEMINI



New moons are new beginnings. They start a new chapter for us every four weeks. So when the new moon falls in Gemini, we open up opportunities for increased writing, travel, communication, and learning. This will be a good time to take a class, start a manuscript, explore the neighborhood, and allow yourself to be heard. Mercury, the ruler of the new moon, will be on its way out of Gemini at the time. Therefore there's a sense of new beginnings paved with the end of a cycle. In addition, the new moon will square Neptune. One word — surrender.

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Bevin's Activity — Starting Things from Surrender: One of my favorite spiritual aha moments was watching Iyanla Vanzant show Oprah how she embodies surrender. Instead of curling up small in a ball, she opens her arms wide, face up towards the sky. That's surrendering, arms wide, to Source. I find one of my most humbling things is to do something I kind of suck at. Like yoga. I think it's much easier to surrender when we know we're starting from a humble beginning. Taking a riff on Katie's suggestion to take a class, think of a subject you've been very curious about, commit to watching a couple of YouTube tutorials about it, and try it out! Maybe it's playing the guitar, learning how to apply makeup, or dressing in drag. . . . Or maybe something you want to explore from the informational interviews you did earlier this month. Do something new, and do it from a place of wide open surrender!

MAY 28: VENUS IN TAURUS



Ah, Venus in Taurus. Venus loves being in Taurus. Here she is earthy and sensual, surveying over a fertile land blooming with flowers and greenery. Think good food and only the best that money can buy. Over the next four weeks, indulge in the pleasures of the physical world.

MAY 29: MERCURY IN CANCER



Shifting out of Gemini, Mercury in Cancer will make for a palpable shift. Where as Gemini is breezy and affable, Cancer is sensitive and heartfelt. Communication over the next few weeks will be interwoven with our emotional process. We may feel shy expressing what we really need to say for fear of rejection or censure. Yet at the same time we'll be able to put words to what we are feeling. Take note that Mercury will be retrograde from June 7 to July 1.

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