

## New Moon in Libra – 14 October – Annular Solar Eclipse

Well, communications seem to have cleared a bit now that Mercury is not only direct but also out of its retrograde zone. However, we're in a situation where the major planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune) are still running retrograde, which suggests that things are going to take a while longer to get moving.

Let's look at the timetable. Saturn goes direct on November 4<sup>th</sup>, Neptune on December 6<sup>th</sup>, Jupiter on December 31<sup>st</sup> and Uranus on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Each planet adding more impetus as it turns direct. That will lead us into a period when all the major planets will be direct until the end of June 2024. (Please note, I'm excluding Pluto, Chiron and the other centaurs from this picture.) That should be a nice five-month window of opportunity to get things going.

Meanwhile it's a matter of reviewing, making sense of where we are, looking more deeply at how we got to where we are in our lives, checking that the ground is solid, checking that our goals are realistic, and that we are living our own life rather than trying to meet the expectations of others. Getting that lot straight over the next few months will put us in a much better position come the new year – Chinese year of the Wood Dragon. But more on that in due course.

Coming back to the current situation, we're entering an eclipse season. There's an annular solar eclipse on the new moon in Libra on 14<sup>th</sup> October. An annular eclipse is when the moon does not completely cover the sun, leaving a ring of light. The press are calling it [a 'ring of fire' solar eclipse](#). This eclipse will be visible in the Americas. To see where, look at the maps on the NASA website [here](#).

For those of you who are into that sort of thing, the eclipse draws a line connecting the indigenous cultures of the [Pacific Northwest](#), the [Navajo Territories](#), [the centre of Mayan civilisation](#) and the recently discovered [ancient cities of the Amazon](#).

Astrologically, the new moon in Libra is conjunct the moon's south node which means that it is a reminder of our strengths, of where we stand in relation to others, that we are not alone in this world – and that we should always remember, acknowledge and honour the love and support we get from the significant others in our lives. But always bearing in mind that this is only the beginning of the journey towards Aries and becoming an individual on our own terms.

Also at the new moon, there is also an opposition from Mercury in Libra to Chiron in Aries. Mercury is the planet of communication and the mind, and when it is connected to Chiron it gives us access to the power of words either to wound or to heal.

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In addition, the new moon is squared off by Pluto in Capricorn. As I've mentioned before, Pluto is in the process of leaving Capricorn and entering Aquarius. You can look at this as leaving the anonymity of the city and returning to the community of the village. But the village is not the same as it was before. It is now the global village, linked together by means of social media. For Aquarius is the sign associated with technology.

Pluto's power in Capricorn is enforced by regulations and the rule of law, while in Aquarius it is enforced by community sanctions, peer pressure and public opinion. This contest is currently being played out in many countries as Pluto moves back and forth across the cusp of these two signs before it finally settles into Aquarius in November 2024. Until then, Capricorn's opposite sign of Cancer (home, environment and feeling of tribal belonging) will be under pressure as governments prevaricate on this issue.

## Full Moon in Taurus – 28 October – Partial Lunar Eclipse

It feels almost churlish to analyse Taurean sensuality and Scorpionic passion. But with a Taurus moon backed by Jupiter and a Scorpio sun backed by Mercury and Mars, it needs to be done.

But before we get down to the nitty-gritty, a bit of technical stuff about this eclipse. A lunar eclipse takes place when the sun, moon and earth are in a straight line and this only happens when the moon is crossing the plane of the ecliptic – either from north to south (south or descending node) or from south to north (the north or ascending node). To put it another way, a lunar eclipse takes place at a full moon when the opposition of the sun and moon lines up with the moon's nodal axis. More on the astronomy of the moon's nodes [here](#).

So, just to repeat the line-up: in Scorpio there's Sun, Mercury and Mars and across the sky in Taurus there's the Moon and Jupiter close to the moon's north node. Mercury and Mars can get triggered into arguments especially in dramatic and passionate Scorpio, while Mars and Jupiter are a mix of high energy, stubbornness and impatience. There's no real way of containing this sh\*t, nor are there any planets in air signs to help mitigate against any foolishness.

Plus, with Venus opposite Neptune, there's an element of fantasy that can come into any feelings of attraction – so just make sure that the fantasy is wholesome or at the very least, you've got a safe word.

All you've got to get you through this weekend (yes, it's Hallowe'en weekend) is the innate tranquillity and common sense of the Taurus moon. So, if you find yourself in a situation that is getting out of hand, try and find the most peaceful solution or leave.

Go well

Ben

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## Diary Dates

All times GMT

<b>11 October</b>	<b>Pluto turns direct in Capricorn</b>	
<b>14 October</b>	<b>New Moon in Libra – Annular Solar Eclipse</b>	<b>17:56</b>
<b>23 October</b>	<b>Sun enters Scorpio</b>	<b>16:22</b>
<b>28 October</b>	<b>Full Moon in Taurus – Partial Lunar Eclipse</b>	<b>20:24</b>
<b>29 October</b>	<b>Daylight Savings ends in UK and Europe</b>	
<b>31 October</b>	<b>Christians celebrate All Hallows Eve</b>	
	<b>Wiccans and Pagans celebrate Samhain</b>	
<b>1 November</b>	<b>Christians celebrate All Saints Day</b>	
<b>2 November</b>	<b>Christians celebrate All Souls' Day</b>	
<b>4 November</b>	<b>Saturn turns direct in Pisces</b>	
<b>5 November</b>	<b>Daylight Savings ends in USA and Canada</b>	
<b>12 November</b>	<b>Hindus celebrate Diwali</b>	
<b>13 November</b>	<b>New Moon in Scorpio</b>	<b>09:29</b>



*All Saints Day in Poland*

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