



LUNAR MYTHOLOGIES

Manual for Observers of the

STRAWBERRY MOON



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This Manual for Observers of the Strawberry Moon serves as a guide for the creation of future Strawberry Moon ceremonies. It also bears witness to a particular Strawberry Moon gathering on June 16, 2019, in Harlem, New York. It will unfold in parts for contemplation and practice. This manual is part 6 of the 12 part Lunar Mythologies, a companion for the observation of the Full Moon throughout the year.

Preparations & Considerations

I'm tracing the movement from last month's full moon, through the Gemini New Moon on June 3rd in preparation for the upcoming Strawberry Full Moon in Sagittarius on June 17th.

Follow Your Own Clock

Last month's Full Milk Moon taught us to anchor the ecstatic birth energy of April into committed and disciplined action, with a view toward service and the greater good. We looked at how our behaviors and activities succeeded or fell short of our intentions when we examined our priorities. The lesson that emerged became about listening to our own body-clock and our own metabolism and resisting the pull, the undertow, of other people's expectations, status, and the illusions of progress and productivity instilled by a capitalist economy. The message came in a vision of motion: RISE. This was contrasted to the image of moving forward.

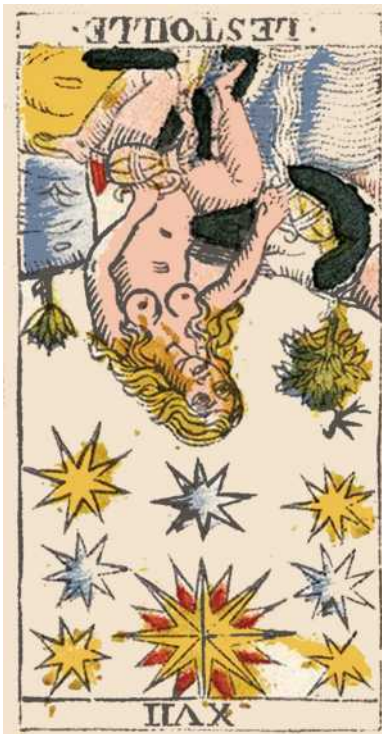
Bring Order to Chaos

This month, we moved through a confusion-generating New Moon in Gemini. This New Moon brought intellectual and mental activity as well as multiple opportunities or possible paths forward. This activity generated enthusiasm perhaps bordering on anxiety. Thankfully the Full Moon in Sagittarius anchors that multiplicity and gives us the opportunity to refocus our minds and actions. The Sagittarius symbols, the arrow and the archer, help keep us aligned with our original birth-purpose associated with the Full Egg Moon back in April. This Moon brings reassessment, re-evaluation. It considers the commitments and actions of this new life we've been given, as well as the earthly temptations that form the shadow-side of those engagements. It considers the many paths the intellect generates and offers. Yet the Sagittarius arrow reminds us of our sure course, our purpose. This arrow is the intuition that connects us back to our birth-decision. This original decision is called by various names: God, Holy Spirit, Inner Voice, Soul, Conscience, even Confidence. This arrow directs the many decisions we must face in the spirit of our origin.

Receive (or surrender to) the Fruits of your Labor

The symbols of this month's Full Moon, Honey, Strawberries, and the Rose, are all symbols of a kind of bounty. In the Catholic mythology, Strawberries represent good fruits of the righteous man. A rose bush was said to have grown at the site of Christ's death. The rose also symbolizes hope, new beginnings and balance. Honey suggests the sweet reward of unified work and communal focus (this image harkens way back to the divination from April: the Three of Pentacles). Last month we focused our commitments through disciplined action and we are starting to see the fruits.

Monthly Divination



The Star – Reversed

The divination for this month, The Star, reversed, can be summed up simply as the “blessing in disguise.” The card suggests that there is a collective feeling of overwhelm, perhaps because of that Gemini New Moon. Our faith is being tested by “fruits” that we do not see as the sweet strawberries or honey promised as a return for our disciplined actions. We are questioning our path and our confidence in our intuition because we can’t find the “evidence” we want, the confirmations are not coming at the pace of our expectations. The lesson of the Star is to view the “fruits” we are granted as the gifts that keep us on course. Things do not always appear as we expect. It is a call to shift perspective.

Finally, the Star reversed calls us to re-connect with our intuition through meditation, rest, and our connection with nature. This is essential to ensure we are aligned with our purpose. This divination illuminates our relationship at this time with the Sagittarius Archer: we must nurture ourselves so that our arrows can be swift and sure.

Faith is the True Perspective

Implicit in the New Moon in Gemini is a restlessness of mind that needs to be relieved by a renewed clarity of the Sagittarius arrow. As we move through life we accomplish goals and we create new ones. This Moon reminds us to align those new goals with our highest purpose illuminated by our intuitive voice. The Star reversed encourages us to keep the faith.

Ceremony Divination

What is the message of a disguised blessing?



IVY

You are entering a period of unbridled growth and expansion, not from adversity, but from the determination to follow your own heart. Whenever you follow your heart, you automatically step into greater alignment with the generous spirit of Creation. You will find that others become magnetized to your cause, your passion and to the vibrant core of you.

This is a time of self-discovery and self-empowerment. You are stepping into closer proximity to the reasons why you came to the Earth, and what you are meant to be contributing now. You may experience odd synchronicities and the feeling that as you require something, you turn and it is at hand. Focus and resilience are strong now. You find a way to claim your stage, no matter what. You are following your bliss and everyone can see it.

Find an object of tarnished silver or another metal. Hold the object in your hand and turn it over, observing carefully how the tarnish has altered its appearance and obscured the shining beauty and appeal of this object. Think about how your own fears, apprehensions and self-doubt have had much the same effect on you. Take a soft cloth and clean and polish the object back to its original glory. Self-doubt is no more than a mask that covers up your natural shine.

Ivy is associated with love, fertility and vibrant growth. It is carried by brides to bring luck and fidelity in the marriage, and use with Holly for Yuletide celebration and decoration. It became the custom to allow it to freely cover buildings and homes, because it was thought to offer a protective covering or shield against misfortune. Medicinally, Ivy was used to swat nervous disorders, skin problems and bronchial issues.

Definitions

Gift:

A special favor by God or Nature

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Common Notions

Galatians 6

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Inland Empire

I don't really understand what I'm doing here.

That's one hell of a fuckin' climb getting up here.

So I was told you could help me. I guess I'll just tell you the thing..

I just know that am I.

There was this man...I once knew...

His name was...

It doesn't matter what his name was...

A lot of guys change.

They don't change, but they reveal

In time they reveal what they really are.

You know what I mean?

It is an old story.

Well this guy...he revealed something.

Looking back on it...

All along it was being revealed.

He was planning something...planning something with me in mind.

When I get mad, I really get mad.

I gouged a man's eye out when I was 15 once, he was trying to rape me...

I mean, the fucker had it out pushing my legs apart.

I got a finger on his eyes socket, pretty quick, rape was quite a long way off his mind. He was crying and screaming like a baby.

"What a fuckin man you are," I said.

There was goo...

He still could still see me with the one eye. See me comin' at him, grabbin' his nuts and tearin' at 'em. He'd seen that alright, felt it too.

He was screamin' and wailin' like a little baby. He sat in the corner cryin' alone and huggin' his nuts 'till the ambulance come.

The ambulance guys, they say: "What the fuck happened here?"

I say: "He come to a reapin' what he had been sowin', that's what."

They say: "Fucker been sowing some kind of heavy shit..."

Propositions

I
WANTED
THE
PLACEBO

by Steve Reinke

What a
strange thought

—the
wound marrying
the blade

by Steve Reinke



Weasel and Wild Strawberries by Katayama Bokuyo

Psychometric Processing

WOUND

Anger is a gift.









