

## THE DEVIL'S DAYS AGAIN

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The astrological weather continues pretty much as described yesterday, if anything stronger and less forgiving. If this sounds ominous, that is not my point. We are into the legendary three days before the New Moon, what the Tibetans call the fierce 'dharma protector days' and what western astrology used to call the "devil's days." Well, I guess that does sound a little ominous, after all, so let me explain.

The lunation cycle is winding down, finishing up, and more and more of the nonessentials in life are seen for just that and starting to pass. Remember how the Christian Bible always says "this or that came to pass?" I say, "let it pass." We are digging through the chaff just now and hanging on to the kernels of wheat we find, clinging to the baby and letting the bathwater of the waning Moon run out.

Another way to describe this is that we are now into the phase of 'lessons learned', reaping what we can from what we sowed in this month's cycle, gathering the seed from our own experience, and getting ready to sow it once again at the New Moon. This happens every month, but due to some of the other astrological factors that are peaking just now, it is much more dramatic than usual.

It is like we are treading water and feeling with our toes for solid ground. This is where patience comes in. That ground will not fully appear until the New Moon on Friday at 11:56 AM EDT. During this meantime it is traditional to be content with less, as in: less is more. We are getting down to the nitty-gritty and that can be sobering.

For me it has been very hard to hold still, be patient, and let the tide of things run out revealing what it will. In the fog of change we should gradually begin to see the outline of what's coming for us. Like the proverbial Atlantis rising into view within our own mind, we should start to sense shapes and form, but it takes time.

And there is always an exchange or transaction that takes place. Substance is transformed (like ourselves), energy is released, and something or someone we once were fades into the past while someone we will soon be comes into focus for the first time. Hello! It is an art to know when to let go of what has no future for us, no matter how precious it once was, and to welcome into our lives the unknown, our actual future. The dark days of the Moon are like that, and we are in them now.

As my first real teacher would often tell me, we have a choice between being the Cling or the Freestone Peach. With the Freestone, the pit just naturally pops out from the flesh, while with the Cling it kind of gets torn out.

We are in the seed time now and can each see for ourselves how much we cling to the past or freely just let it pass. Over the years, and with great difficulty, I have learned not to fear the unknown, but to welcome it. As if I had a choice! I jokingly call it "going to meet my maker." If I have to go anyway, I might as well go freely and with my eyes open into that unknown. That is how the unknown becomes known, and hence loved!

I don't want to wax too philosophical here, but rather to just briefly point out that the conflux of astrological factors around this particular New Moon makes it stand out in time. This is a more serious moment, a time of reckoning and transition where we are measured and known.

It often makes me nervous and requires a bit of bravery on my part, but when fears fade and the new is known, things come out all right. I am reminded of a wonderful line in one of my daughter May's songs, "A Beautiful Mess," where the refrain is "Find a little love along the way, die a little every day." It happens.