

THE CYCLE OF LUNAR DAYS (Tithies)

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The idea: The basic structure of any cycle, and thus all cycles, is similar, the movement from an inner point of contraction or encapsulation (seed) to an outer expansion or fullness, and back again to the seed point. All cycles follow this pattern, whether it be the cycle of the breath, the seasons, the solunar cycle, or any planetary pair cycle. You can also examine the circle of the astrological houses, the zodiac in the same way. Use the cycle of the breath as an example:

There are two halves or hemispheres to any cycle, the outgoing or expanding half, and the ingoing or contracting half. The two key points of any cycle are the seed point, like the New Moon, and the expanded phase, like the Full Moon.

The next two most important points in a cycle are the two quarters, like the quarter moon, halfway between in and out (expanding half), and halfway between out and in (contracting half).

These two quarter points mark clear shifts in energy and direction, the First Quarter from within to out, and the Fourth Quarter, from out to in. In the First Quarter, we cross from the inner side of the cycle to the outer half, and in the Fourth Quarter, we cross from the outer side of the cycle to the inner half. These mark the change from being within to outward being, and from outward being to inward being.

Next, there are several other points that are important. Tradition seems to favor the 45-degree points on the cycle as the next most important events, and because these 45-degree points are one half a square or 90-degree aspect, these 45-degree marks are said to indicate shifts in activity or physicality. These 45-degree marks are crucial, IMO.

For my own part, I tend to find the four points, sextile/trine (60, 120, 240, 300) to be equally important, and perhaps even more so, because they introduce another kind of aspect to the analysis, one which I find particularly useful, "realization."

So, these 12 aspects are what I look to as the major phase events in any cycle: 0, 45, 60, 90, 120, 135, 180, and 180, 225, 240, 270, 300, and 315 degrees of angular separation. You can also use the division of any circle into 30 sections of 12-degrees each, which is what the Lunar Days are in the solunar cycle.

Of equal importance, at all times, is to keep in mind where these phase aspects fit into the overall cycle. Let me give one clear example, and it will be a corny one, but hopefully helpful:

If I have a circular route that passes through a large swamp, and at the center of the swamp is a rest area, where you can get some food, while you are traveling. Let's say the rest area is one of our main phase aspects. And, you are traveling through the swamp, but not quite near the rest area. As far as major phase events go, you are not on the radar screen, but you are still in the swamp.

In other words, it is ALWAYS important to know roughly where you are in the cycle phases, even if you are not at one of the main phase points.

As astrologer Dane Rudhyar pointed out very clearly, many (if not most) astrologers pay NO attention to phase cycles. A square, is a square, is a square... as far as popular astrology is concerned. If you have transiting Saturn square to its natal position, it makes a huge difference whether that square is a waxing or a waning square, the difference between a fairly young person and a quite older person. Most astrologers do pay attention in the above example, however, most astrologers also don't pay this same attention otherwise.

It makes absolute sense to measure aspects by their phase angle (in context) and not just by their geometrical angle.

And one last thought, referring to our walk through the swap analogy: While it makes great sense to try and pinpoint the aspect phases, it also makes equal sense to note the general phase area, the angular separation, between the two bodies, whether or not it is near one of the main phase points.

And, if I may, this is true for all astrology. If you choose to not declare a square aspect as present if the angular separation is 11 degrees, and you are using a 10 degree orb, at least be clear that what you have here is more like a square, than it is like ANY other major aspect. It is squar-ish, has just been a square or is about to be a square, and this is essential to note. I find orbs not useful because they tend to make us lazy, especially if a computer program does not list the aspect because it failed to be the aspect by one degree more than the orb we set. Orbs are not helpful. Instead, always see what part of the swamp you are in.

Keep your thinking in the ballpark. For one, you always have some landmarks this way. You are not dependent on a few events to give you information.

Every planetary combination is on a continuous curve, circle, and cycle, and there are no rest stops in cycle space. Yes, there are aspects that seem to resonate, at least with astrologers, but there is no space empty of activity between these special phase aspects. Everything depends on its context, and it is very useful to note the context of any two planets, not just whether they are near a major aspect. With that in mind, let's walk through the 360-degree cycle with a little more granularization.

THE CIRCLE, CYCLE, AND ITS CIRCULATION

Lunar Day-01-----(000°)

This is the seed impulse, that is, the solar tone or guiding impulse of the whole cycle. More of a feeling and inner sensing than a thought or concept to get hold of. The sense of something new coming, but for now just an inner opening, growing.

See impulse, growing in strength. Although not yet strong, has destiny. It is what is happening.

Lunar Day-01 01--A--(006°) SEED IS SOWN

Potentiality, Subjective (in there), Instinctively, Spontaneous, Involuntary, Activity, Potency, Seminal, source

Latency is ended, and the seed has been sown and now germinates. The potentiality, which can be developed, is there, potent, and with a mandate over the past, the best of what has come before. By definition, it is seminal and active. Although first experienced, perhaps, as a tone or feeling, against a background of competing noise, this impulse tone has a mandate (it is the 'seed') to actively persist and, if cultivated, to supersede and set into relief what went before. It will rise out of and above the past.

By definition, this is the most potent and subjective or inner state. Learning to trust subjective potency, which cannot at that point yet be defined, is almost an art, and certainly a risk-takers dream. Let me give a very mundane example, that may spark your getting the idea, here.

Have you ever heard a new song or piece of music that had some deep portion that you did not at first get, perhaps almost was annoyed at, but found yourself having to hear it over and over, AND (and this is the point) never really tiring of it.

In other words, there are things in life that are so potent, have such a hidden potential (for us), that we cannot just figure them out and get them right off the bat. It takes time and repeated hearings to get whatever the message or meaning of that song is.

And the moral of this story is: When confronted with the obviously beautiful and understandable melody, and the deeply moving, but unfathomable at that moment, melody, I have learned to go with the one that will take me time to understand. Why?

Because such a melody has a future, meaning: it will last a long time, at least until I have heard enough of it. And then there are geniuses like Shakespeare, whose words are so tightly wrapped or potent that the combined ears of many generations have never fully unraveled them. This is what I mean by potential, and how to recognize the early phase. You must feel your way along.

Tiger, Tiger, burning bring
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?
– William Blake

This is the beginning, the seed impulse is sown, that is, the solar tone or guiding impulse of the whole cycle. More of a feeling and inner sensing than a thought or concept to get hold of. The sense of something new coming, but not a clear concept, but for now just an inner opening and growing.

So the early phase types of almost mute visionaries, who cannot explain who or what they are, but if you are receptive, you can feel the information that is embedded in their lives, waiting to be developed.

NOTE: In the following list, each lunar day is listed, which are always increments of 12-degrees. If the day is listed with an "A," this means it is that lunar day, halfway through or +6 degrees. So "12" would be the second lunar day and "12-A" would be "18 degrees..

Lunar Day-02----- (012°) GERMINATION

Lunar Day-02--A-- (018°)

See impulse, growing in strength. Although not yet strong, has destiny. It is what is happening.

Lunar Day-03----- (024°)

Lunar Day-03--A-- (030°)

By this time in lunar cycle, can see the crescent moon. The new impulse begins to take shape and be visible.

This can be a time of cooperative, communal effort. The seminal tone is so deep and, as yet undefined, that it may

The idea: you have a new internal message, one that you don't even know the extent of. It has not personalized itself. All you want to do is move it forward, develop it, and you need all the help you can get. To put a more positive spin on it, the vision may well include all humanity, and thus communal, cooperative, in nature.

Lunar Day-04----- (036°)

Lunar Day-04--A-- (042°)

Here is the 45-degree mark, where the seed impulse emerges from its past and surroundings and a more physical turning point, where the new impulse breaks out into the open, emerging from whatever past surrounds it, to the forefront. This point may well require effort or in some way be taxing or a test.

Lunar Day-05----- (048°)

Lunar Day-05--A-- (054°)

Broad planning efforts. Formulating a strategy, getting cooperation. The goal is to create, invest, and build something in the outward world, now in the planning stage.

Lunar Day-06----- (060°)

Lunar Day-06--A-- (066°)

Suddenly, efforts are easier. Got a handle on it. Big push forward. Have a sense of how to make it happen, so that hurdles and obstacles are met with more confidence.

Lunar Day-07-----(072°)

Lunar Day-07--A--(078°)

Coming up against whatever past and outmoded forms arise, but they are clearly not happening and don't have to be battled with. Just acknowledge the past, and embrace whatever spillover into the present there is, for the sake of making this new project happen. In other words, an attitude of acceptance, even humbling, may be required in order to arch over the past, and bring something new into the world.

Lunar Day-08-----(084°)

Lunar Day-08--A--(090°)

A major turning point, energetically. Have negotiated whatever part of the past required your attention, accepted that, and now (and on top of that) have finally brought the first stage and step of the new project into the sphere of action, actually existing in the world. However small a step it is, it is despite the past, and now, nothing can deny it. It exists and calls for a response from the world.

Note: At a major turning point like this, there can be a day... or two, where you have to get reoriented. There can be confusion, as you switch hats. Don't be surprised, and just let go one way of working, and pick up on another. If you pay attention, you will be surprised how often we let go of one direction or way of working, go through a brief reorientation period (sometimes confusing), and they set our sights on another direction and pick up there. Watching the lunar cycle can help you be sensitive to these times and learn how to use them.

Lunar Day-09-----(096°)

Lunar Day-09--A--(102°)

You are underway, and now IS the time to continue forward, and with real effort to develop, broaden, and further the project. This is not a good time to give in to doubts or slack off. Now is the time to really push. If you can work hard for a few days, it should get easier, and you get a handle on it.

Lunar Day-10-----(108°)

Lunar Day-10--A--(114°)

Continued development, but by this point, should be getting a response. In other words, the world should be responding to your effort, and your action or statement should be drawing a response from the universe, one appropriate to the action made.

Lunar Day-11-----(120°)

Lunar Day-11--A--(126°)

Another turning point, and one where things can ease up, and you really get a handle on what you are doing. At this point, you are literally helping to build and embody your idea, watching the response from the world or actively building the form yourself. You are making it happen, and it should be easy now to put forth more effort, and even put some spin on it.

Lunar Day-12-----(132°)

Lunar Day-12--A--(138°)

The basic form should have arisen or have, more or less, come together by now. Again, here is a slight shift in effort, in your favor – things are easier. What should be happening here is to begin to pursue whatever extensions of the form are possible. You are moving into the finishing phase.

Lunar Day-13-----(144°) EXTENSION

Lunar Day-13--A--(150°)

Exploration of the existing form, refinement, and extension are in order. You are pushing the current project as far as it will go, filling in the details, elaborating the form, creating detailed infrastructure. Don't look for further growth or development, but to finishing, finalizing the form you have made to this point.

Lunar Day-14-----(156°)INFRASTRUCTURE

Lunar Day-14--A--(162°)

Establishing fine network of arterioles, lines of communication, and generally extending the project as far as possible. Get as much into finishing it as you can, at this point. You have almost, but not quite, reached the limits, so this is a chance to explore, further, and extend your domain.

Lunar Day-15-----(168°) COMPLETION

Lunar Day-15--A--(174°)

In this stage, you now reach the limits, literally: run out of gas, energy. There is no more oomph, and thus no more time to work. You have extended this form as fully as you will be able. This is the end of the line of development, and a very major change of phase.

Lunar Day-16-----(180°) FULLNESS

Lunar Day-16--A--(186°)

This is the Full Moon or completed project, vehicle, plan, or what-have-you put together here? You have built it and are literally in the middle of it, living it, now experiencing the ride in it, or whatever is appropriate to what has been created. This is your "chariot" or vehicle or home, the "fullness" of the experience. You probably have little idea yet of the extent or nature of the experience. This is like a roller-coaster ride. Right now you are in the ride. Later you will think or reflect on it. Right now, just hang on.

Lunar Day-17-----(192°)FULL-BODIED

Lunar Day-17--A--(198°)

More of the same, even a deepening of the experience, as you move into the very thick of it. Traditionally, a wild and sensual time, the full-Moon phase. Public events, parties, get-togethers, etc. planned for this time are, at the very least, full-bodied affairs.

Lunar Day-18----- (204°) BLINK

Lunar Day-18--A--(210°)

Here there should be the first glimmer or gleam of the extent of what this experience has been all about. You are still in the thick of it, but the rush of it has probably tapered off a bit, and things are more familiar. You are starting to get a handle on it.

Lunar Day-19----- (216°) THE DAWN

Lunar Day-19--A--(222°)

Comes the dawn. Now you should definitely have a handle on the experience, and more or less begin to own it. This means that you now have an growing awareness OF it, no longer just an experience that is having YOU for a ride, but you are having an experience. This is the beginning of awareness.

Also energetic shift here, 45 degrees, which suggest, you are shifting from putting out or just coasting, to some sense of closure, the whiff of impermanence, and that this experience is not going to continue as is, forever. This is not a permanent state of mind, but an experience that will pass.

Lunar Day-20----- (228°) PRIDE – MY AND MINE

Lunar Day-20--A--(234°)

Pride in the growing awareness that this is your experience, and you are handling it. A natural sense of confidence, knowing your way around this time and experience. The “newness” has more or less rubbed off a bit, as the distance in time from the thick of the feeling lengthens. You start to have a “been-there, done-that” sort of edge, and this is a sure sign the experience is beginning to end.

Lunar Day-21----- (240°) THE PARTY IS OVER

Lunar Day-21--A--(246°)

A quick slip, easily made, from the awareness to beyond it, which finds you suddenly looking back at it. The experience is becoming history, and the flush of awareness fades, as the experience does, into remembering and looking back, even trying to regain or get back into to it. You are not into it as much as you were before, and you may move to re-enter it, but it is too late.

Lunar Day-22----- (252°) SALVAGE

Lunar Day-22--A--(258°)

Definitely looking back now to a fuller time, perhaps still trying to get back there, at least salvaging what you can from the situation, conserving the energy (from that experience) now. Still looking back, but more and more clear that you are not back there. Where are you? What next?

Lunar Day-23-----(264°) CONSERVATION

Lunar Day-23--A--(270°) CHANGE

Taking a more conservative approach. Not throwing the energy around like you were in the heat of it. Being more careful, but also clear that you are beyond looking back now.

Conservation be damned, start to jettison the past; not worth hanging on to. Too far gone, so drop the baggage and start to turn around and look to the future, to what's coming.

Lunar Day-23-A (270°):

Now we reach a major change, the point where we not only are not trying to get back into the experience that we see is passing, but are outside of it (beyond it) enough to see it for whatever it was - the whole thing, at a glance. We have come out of it, popped the bubble, and have crossed over and moved on. The experience is now just that, a memory or an experience that we had, but no longer are having or have any continuing personal connection to. We are suddenly just observing it and everything else, for that matter.

This is real detachment from the personal concerns that were being serviced up to this point. Crossing over into impersonal or transpersonal space.

Major Phase Change:

The dewdrop slips into the shining sea.

Lunar Day-24-----(276°) DETACHMENT

Lunar Day-24--A--(282°)

We feel a sense of detachment, in fact feel detached, and this is the predominant experience at this point, the ability to finally be detached from and to observe or see where you came from and to see the experience as a whole, and a chance to accept it for what it was.

Because we are separated or detached from it, we can now see it impersonally, and accept it for whatever it is, good or bad. More important, we can now respond to the former experience, and we can say, "I do," and traditionally this is similar to marriage, fully responding to another person or situation.

Lunar Day-25-----(288°) OBSERVATION

Lunar Day-25--A--(294°)

As we continue to drift away from our past experience, even more detached, our powers of observation improve, as we begin to better understand and see clearly what we have been through.

Lunar Day-A (294+ : Here, the powers of observation are so strong and our insight so clear, as to be able to be critical, able not only to see, but to also see what was not so good about what we just went through, and what might be changed in the future, what parts should not be kept, but cut away.

Now is the time to cut back. You have the ability to see what you don't need, and what is worth saving. Throw out the bath water and keep the baby.

Lunar Day-26----- (300°) CRITICIZE IT

Lunar Day-26--A-- (306°)

A slight shift again, as we continue to get a conceptual handle on everything, actively now cutting out the old growth, and keeping what is worthwhile. This is the harvest stage, where the wheat is separated from the chaff, the good parts noted, and the mistakes marked not to be repeated.

Lunar Day-27----- (312°) TRIM IT

Lunar Day-27--A-- (318°)

Energetic shift point, where we become more active in removing the outmoded and ineffectual, cutting it out and throwing it away. We strip off the nonessential, and cling to the pith of the experiences, the lessons learned and to be saved.

Lunar Day-28----- (324°) SEED TIME

Lunar Day-28--A-- (330°)

With most of the excess cut away, we are concentrating on collecting what remains of value, we harvest the seeds, and protect them.

Lunar Day-29----- (336°) ENCAPSULATE

Lunar Day-29--A-- (342°)

We pare back, even further, getting down to bare essentials, the very seed essence of what remains of our experience, and attempt to encapsulate or codify, to preserve the seeds for future sowing

Lunar Day-30----- (348°) DARK NIGHT OF THE MOON

Lunar Day-30--A-- (354°)

Everything is reduced to its essence, encapsulated, and able to weather any storms that might break out. These are the days before the new moon, and in the literature, they are days to sort of hunker down and get through. This is not the time for new beginnings, but to get your things in order, finish up old accounts, pay them down, clean up.

01----- (000°)

01--A-- (006°)

02----- (012°)

02--A--(018°)
03-----(024°)
03--A--(030°)
04-----(036°)
04--A--(042°)
05-----(048°)
05--A--(054°)
06-----(060°)
06--A--(066°)
07-----(072°)
07--A--(078°)
08-----(084°)
08--A--(090°)
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09--A--(102°)
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15--A--(174°)
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