

LUNAR DAYS

Interpreted East & West



by Michael Erlewine

**The Cycle of Lunar Days
Interpreted**

**By
Michael Erlewine**

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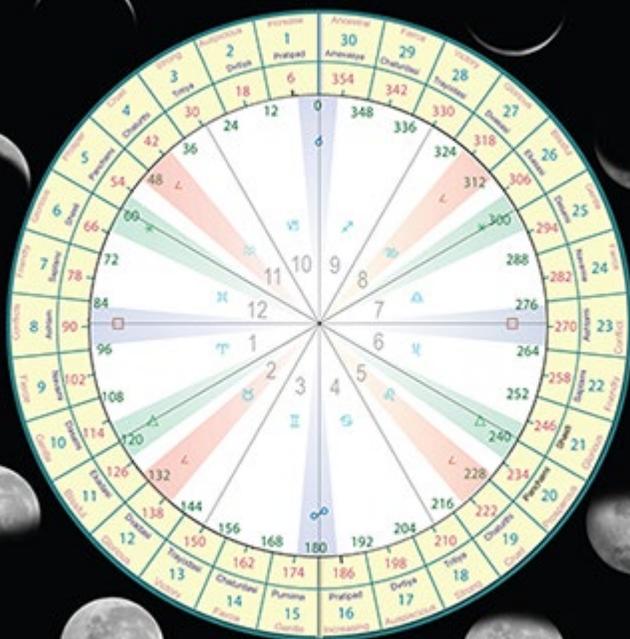
Graphics designed by Michael Erlewine

Lunar Days Tithis

New Moon

1st
Qtr

4th
Qtr



From Michael Erlewine

Full Moon

THE CYCLE OF LUNAR DAYS (Tithies) INTERPRETED

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

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 (flower), and back again to the seed point. All cycles follow this pattern, whether it be the cycle of the breath, heartbeat, 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 16 aspects are what I look to as the major phase events in any cycle: 0, 30, 45, 60, 90, 120, 135, 150, 180, and 180, 225, 240, 270, 300, 315, and 330 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 in a conversation at my home years ago, 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 swamp 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, and 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

And all this is true when we look at the solunar cycle of 30 lunar days as used in Tibet, India, China, and other Asian countries. I have spent years (decades) exploring the 30-day lunar cycle as used in Tibet. I even learned enough Tibetan that with the help of a Bhutanese scholar who knew Tibetan, we translated a variety of Tibetan teachings, most notably from the 3rd Karmapa, Rangjung Dorje. And I have examined many documents from India and their interpretations.

Sadly, since I don't read Tibetan well enough, not to mention Sanskrit, Hindi, and Chinese, I have no definitive results to report. In fact, what I came up with is a bit of a mess. For example, one source says not to travel on a given lunar day, while another says do travel. Multiply that by scores of statements and you can get an idea of what I mean by "mess."

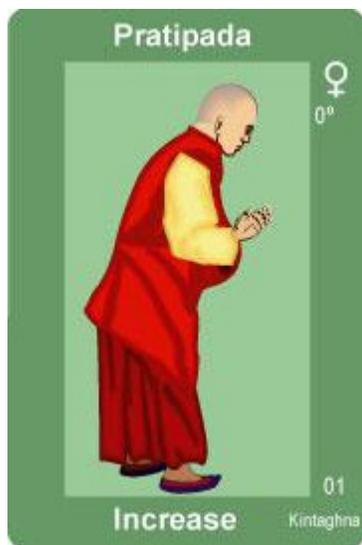
And so, what I have done is a little different. For each lunar day (1 to 30) I first provide you with a typical traditional Tibetan interpretation for that lunar day and then, second, a western interpretation (done by me) for the same general part of the lunar cycle. I also have a little tarot-like card for each version, just for fun. I didn't have quality art available, so I just used whatever clip-art that I had on hand so that you could have some feeling or flavor..

The result is that you can first read a traditional Tibetan version and then read a western version as I would interpret it. Hopefully this is helpful, and perhaps this can be a start for other western astrologers to begin interpreting these classic lunar days. At the end of this section is a second section where we look at and interpret the main astrological aspects (angular separations) that make up a cycle

If you don't know your birth lunar day, you can look up your birth Lunar Day or any other lunar day from 1900 to 2054, please download this free ephemeris, located at this URL.

<http://spiritgrooves.net/pdf/e-books/LunarCalendar%20Ephemeris.pdf>

THE CYCLE OF THE THIRTY SOLUNAR DAYS



Lunar Day 1: Increase
Traditional Interpretation

This lunar is said to be favorable for most activities, including performing rituals and religious festivals, in general, and taking initiations. Travel is to be avoided

Favorable for Building
Favorable Marriage

Those born on this lunar day may have to be careful of the company they keep. Overall, they are very serious, and lacking in simple enjoyment. There may be some disgrace or scandal.



Lunar Day-01 (000° to 012 °)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Pratipad
Conjunction Aspect

SEED IS SOWN

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.

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..



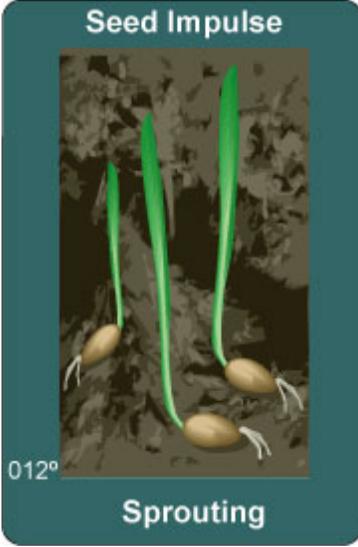
Lunar Day 2: Auspicious

Traditional Interpretation

This is a good lunar day for laying foundations and building things, in general. Also good for marriages, initiation, rituals, and religious ceremonies. This is good for giving and making offerings, resolutions, and spiritual practice of all kinds. But in all this, it is said that very little comes of any activity and the result is generally unproductive. However, there can be success from traveling on this day.

Those born on this lunar day may be lacking in friends, love,

and in affection, and may like spouses other than their own. There is a lack of pure virtue and cleanliness.



Lunar Day-02 (012°- 24°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Dvitiya

GERMINATION

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

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 3: Powerful *Traditional Interpretation*

This lunar day is good for cutting the hair and finger nails, and anything related to caring for the body, beauty, and health. Good for undertaking projects and building things. Favorable for Building.

Those born on this lunar day may lack motivation and be lazy and, in general, restless. Wealth is obtained and the direction north-east is favored.



Lunar Day-03 (24°-36°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Tritiya
Waxing Semi-sextile
[White Tara, Healing, Yoga Tantra]

INKLING



Lunar Day 4: Cruelty *Traditional Interpretation*

On these days, the favorable direction is the West, but travel is to be avoided, and, if taken, may bring the fear of death. This is not good for undertaking construction or new projects. Not

Favorable for Hair Cutting.

Those born on this lunar day may be very competitive and fierce about taking on a challenge and removing whatever obstructs them. Enjoyment of food, drink, and sex. Often rich, educated, and generous, but with a cruel streak.



Lunar Day-04 (36°-48°)

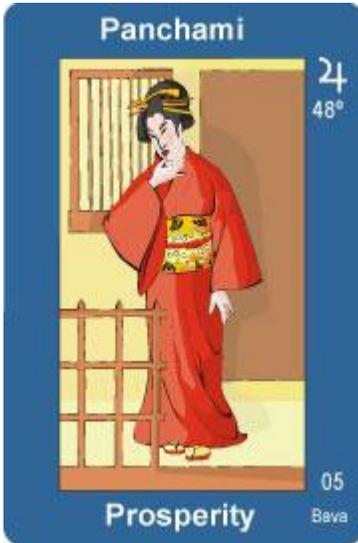
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Chaturthi

Waxing Semi-square

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

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 5: Prosperity *Traditional Interpretation*

A lunar day of excellent qualities, education, and obtaining wealth. Very good for helping and giving to others, but not likely to receive the same in return. A successful day for the vocation and victory, in general, and travel in any direction is favorable. Also favorable for the study of sacred texts, science, and philosophy. Those born on this lunar day are kind hearted.

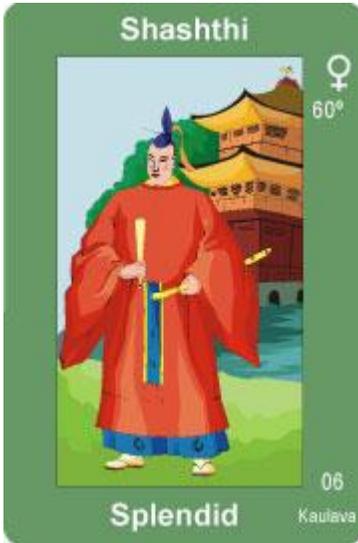


Lunar Day-05 (48°-60°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Panchami
[Dakini Day (minor)]

FORMING A PLAN

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 6: Splendid
Traditional Interpretation

Efforts undertaken on this day, new projects, etc. will bring moderate success. This is not a day for travel, and doing so may bring losses.

- Not Favorable for Journeys
- Not Favorable for Marriage
- Not Favorable for Hair Cutting

Those born on this lunar day are may be subject to some bombast, perhaps arguments, and egotism, in general, and a yearning to be in the spotlight.



Lunar Day-06 (60°-72°)

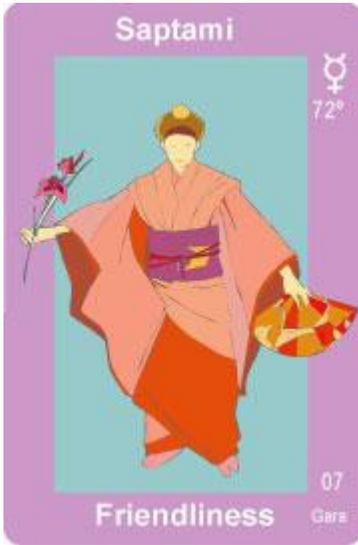
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Shasti

ENERGIZING

Waxing Sextile Aspect

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 7: Friendliness

Traditional Interpretation

A very auspicious day for building and purchasing things, and undertaking new projects. Traveling on this day is also very favorable. Good for business and exchange of all kinds.

Favorable for Journeys

Those born on this lunar day are good for obtaining wealth and especially fortunate with children. The favorable direction is South. Friendly nature. Likes to take charge.



Lunar Day-07 (072°-84°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Saptami
ACCEPTING LIMITATIONS

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 8: Conflicts

Traditional Interpretation

This is not a good lunar day to undertake new projects and for construction, in general. However, very good for obtaining wealth, increasing resources, health and healing, and honing expertise in the chosen field. The favorable direction is the South-East, but travel in any direction in this lunar day may bring illness.

Favorable for Hair Cutting

Not favorable for Marriage

Those born on this lunar day have love for marriage and family. Sensuality is strong. Interest in religion and truth.



Lunar Day-08 (084°-96°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Ashtami

Waxing Square Aspect

[Guru Rinpoche (minor), Gyalwa Gyatso, Medicine Buddha

OUTWARD START

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.



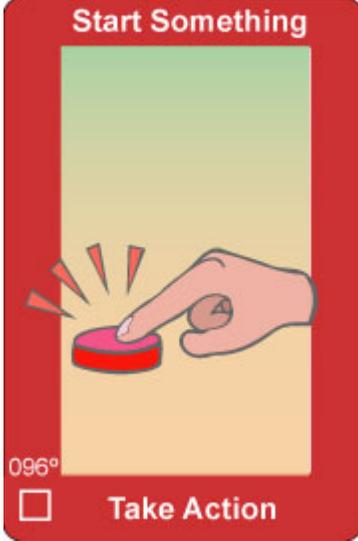
Lunar Day 9: Fierce *Traditional Interpretation*

Travel during this lunar day is not good, and it is said the person may not return. Good for all business and exchange, and taking charge and being the boss. Constructive efforts and new projects produce only moderate gains.

Favorable for Building
Favorable for Hair Cutting
Favorable for Marriage

In general, those born on this lunar day are aggressive and

anger is never far. They enjoy children, the opposite sex, and education is favored. Also worship.



Lunar Day-09 (096°-108°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Navami

[Dharma Protectors (minor)]

BUILDING

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: Gentleness

Traditional Interpretation

This is an excellent day for travel and doing so may result in gains. In general, this lunar day is happy and good for relationships. Excellent for undertaking new projects and construction, in general. The favorable direction is the North-West and this day is good for speaking.

Favorable for Feast Days, Offerings

Favorable for Building

Favorable for Hair Cutting

Favorable for Journeys Favorable for Marriage

Those born on this day have a good sense of right and wrong, although the tone may be somewhat serious.



Lunar Day-10 (108°-120°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Dasami

Waxing Trine Aspect

[Daka/Heruka Day(Male Deities), Heart Yoga, Feast Day]

ENERGY TO USE

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.

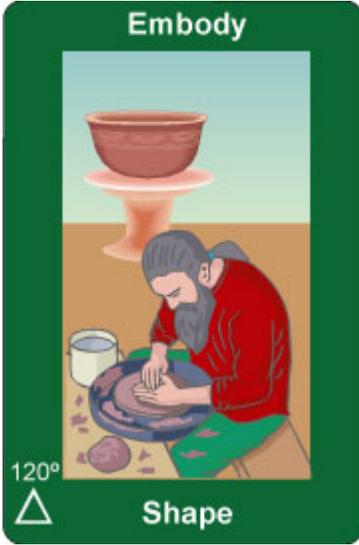


Lunar Day 11: Bliss
Traditional Interpretation

A very auspicious day for travel, with good results. A day that produces fame and honor from society, but not good for undertaking new projects or construction. The direction North is favorable.

Favorable for Building
Favorable for Hair Cutting

For those born on this lunar day, wealth is very good and marriages and children are favored. Intelligent and pure of mind. Very good for religious practice.



Lunar Day-11 (120°-132°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Ekadasi

SHAPING THE FUTURE

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: Splendid *Traditional Interpretation*

A good lunar day to undertake new projects and for construction, in general. Not a good day for traveling, and doing so may result in the loss of wealth. Very favorable for study and learning.

Those born on this lunar day are somewhat restless, and the mind may wander.

Lunar Day-12 (132°-144°)



Sanskrit Name: Dvadasi
Waxing Sesquiquadrate Aspect

OVERCOMING RESISTANCE
Western Interpretation

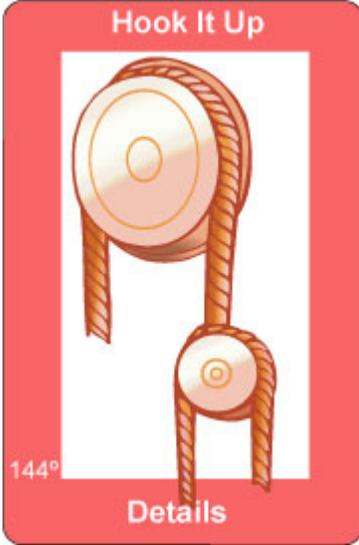
The basic form should have arisen or have, more or less, come together by now. Again, here is a slight shift in effort, in your favor – things are easier. What should be happening here is to begin to pursue whatever extensions of the form are possible. You are moving into the finishing phase.



Lunar Day 13: Victory *Traditional Interpretation*

Travel on this lunar day is said to be favorable for making friends and creating alliances. A good day for undertaking new projects and beginning construction, as well as education.

A birth on this lunar day produces kindness, charity, and hospitality. Good for making friends, pleasures, and enjoyment of all kinds.



Lunar Day-13 (144°-156°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Trayodasi
Waxing Inconjunct Aspect

[12-Guardian Deity, Purification (minor), Prayer Flags]

EXTENSION

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: Fierce *Traditional Interpretation*

No travel is to be undertaken on this day. The direction East is favorable. Starting new projects and construction in general is not favored, and the day is somewhat aggressive, even bold and daring.

Not Favorable for Journey
Not Favorable for Hair Cutting

Those born on this day will receive honor from society. Wealth is favored and religious activities. Hot temper.



Lunar Day-14 (156°-168°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Chaturdasi
[Fire Puja, Purification]

INFRASTRUCTURE

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: Gentleness

Traditional Interpretation

Full Moon

Travel is forbidden on this lunar day. Good for invoking the ancestors and religious practice and ceremonies. Good for wealth and wisdom, and rightful actions. New projects and construction should not be undertaken.

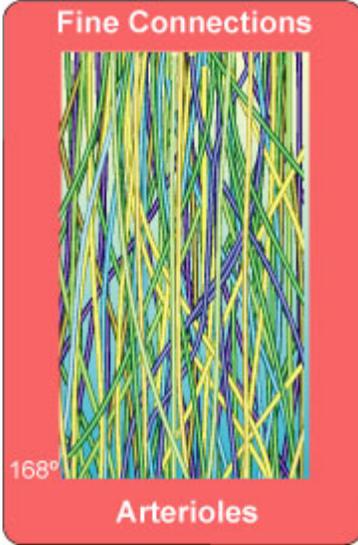
Favorable for Action (Purification)

Not Favorable for Journeys

Not Favorable for Marriage

Not Favorable for Agriculture Not Favorable for Hair Cutting

Those born on this lunar day have a fondness for food and the partners of others.



Lunar Day-15 (168°-180°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Purnima

COMPLETION

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: Increase
Traditional Interpretation

This lunar is said to be favorable for most activities, including performing rituals and religious festivals, in general, and taking initiations. Travel is to be avoided.

Not Favorable for Hair Cutting

One born on this lunar day has to be careful of the company they keep. Overall, very serious, lacking simple enjoyment, and there may be some disgrace or scandal.



Lunar Day-16 (180°-192°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Pratipad
Opposition Aspect
[Major Assembly Prayer Day]

FULLNESS

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: Auspicious *Traditional Interpretation*

This is a good lunar day for laying foundations and building things, in general. Also good for marriages, initiation, rituals, and religious ceremonies. This is good for giving and making offerings, resolutions, and spiritual practice of all kinds. But in all this, it is said that very little comes of any activity, and the result is generally unproductive. However, there is success from traveling on this day.

Not Favorable for Hair Cutting

A person born on this lunar day may be lacking in friends, love, and in affection, and may like spouses other than their own. There is a lack of pure virtue and cleanliness.

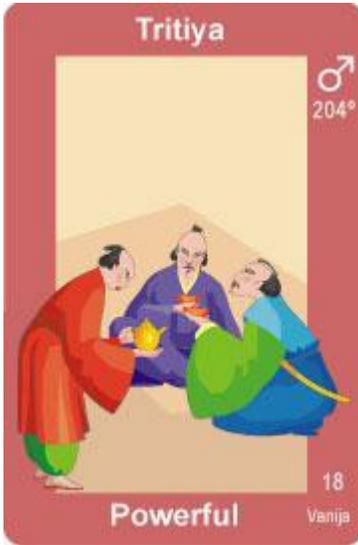


Lunar Day-17 (192°-204°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Dvitiya

FULL-BODIED

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: Powerful *Traditional Interpretation*

This lunar day is good for cutting the hair and finger nails, and anything related to caring for the body, beauty, and health. Good for undertaking projects and building things.

Persons born on this lunar day may lack motivation and be lazy and, in general, restless. Wealth is obtained and the direction north-east is favored.



Lunar Day-18 (204°-216°)

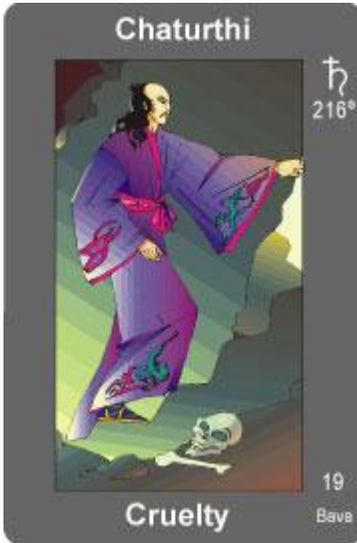
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Tritiya

Waning Inconjunct Aspect

BLINK

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.

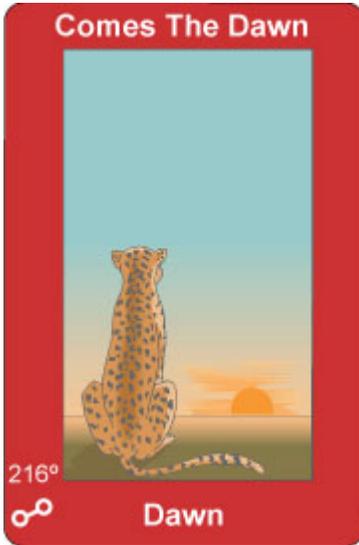


Lunar Day 19: Cruelty *Traditional Interpretation*

The favorable direction is the West, but travel is to be avoided, and, if taken, may bring the fear of death. This is not good for undertaking construction or new projects.

Favorable for Building
Favorable for Marriage

Persons born on this day are very competitive and fierce about taking on a challenge and removing whatever obstructs them. They enjoy food, drink, and sex. Often rich, educated, and generous, but with a cruel streak.



Lunar Day-19 (216°-228°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Chaturthi

Waning Sesquiquadrate Aspect

[Dharma Protector (minor), Medicine Buddha]

THE DAWN

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 a 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: Prosperity *Traditional Interpretation*

A lunar day of excellent qualities, and good for education and obtaining wealth. A successful day for the vocation and victory, in general, and travel in any direction is favorable. Also favorable for the study of sacred texts, science, and philosophy.

Favorable for Building

A person born on this lunar day is very good for helping and giving to others, but not likely to receive the same in return. Kind hearted.



Lunar Day-20 (228°-240°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Panchami
Waning Trine Aspect

PRIDE – MY, MINE, AND ME

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: Splendid
Traditional Interpretation

Efforts undertaken on this day, new projects, etc. will bring moderate success. This is not a day for travel, and doing so may bring losses

Not Favorable for Journeys

Persons born on this day will be prone to some bombast, perhaps arguments, and egotism, in general, and a yearning to be in the spotlight



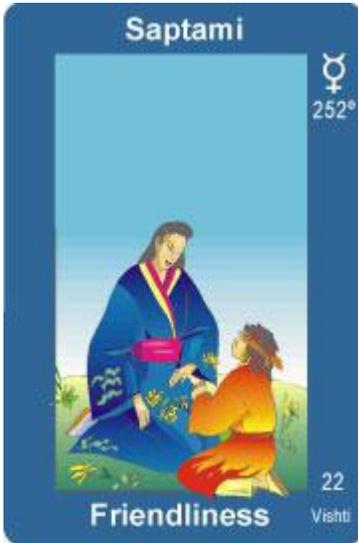
Lunar Day-21 (240°-252°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Shasti

THE PARTY IS OVER

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: Friendliness

Traditional Interpretation

A very auspicious day for building and purchasing things, and undertaking new projects. Traveling on this day is also very favorable. The favorable direction is South.

Favorable for Journeys

Persons born on this lunar day are good at obtaining wealth and especially fortunate with children. Also good for business and exchange of all kinds. Friendly nature. They like to take charge.

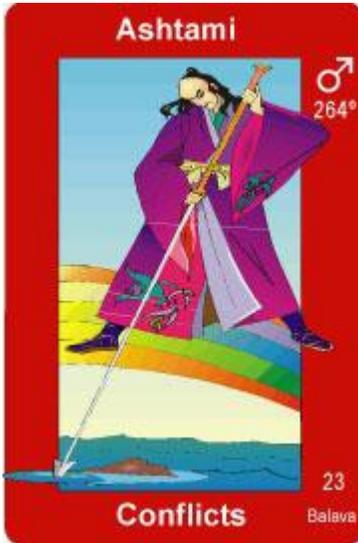


Lunar Day-22 (252°-264°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Septami

SALVAGE

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: Conflicts *Traditional Interpretation*

This is not a good lunar day to undertake new projects and for construction, in general. However, very good for obtaining wealth, increasing resources, health and healing, and honing expertise in the chosen field. The favorable direction is the South-East, but travel in any direction in this lunar day may bring illness.

Favorable for Building
Not favorable for Agriculture

Those born on this lunar day will have love for marriage and family. Sensuality is strong. Also, an Interest in religion and truth.



Lunar Day-23 (264°-276°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Ashtami

Waning Square Aspect

[Tara, Healing (minor) Vajravahi Practice]

CONSERVATION

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.

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: Fierce
Traditional Interpretation

Travel during this lunar day is not good and it is said the person may not return. Good for all business and exchange, and taking

charge and being the boss. Constructive efforts and new projects produce only moderate gains.

Favorable for Building
Favorable for Journeys
Favorable for Marriage
Not Favorable for Agriculture

Those born on this lunar are generally aggressive, and anger is never far. Enjoyment of children, the opposite sex, and education is favored. Also: worship.



Lunar Day-24 (276°-288°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Navami

DETACHMENT

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: Gentleness *Traditional Interpretation*

This is an excellent day for travel and doing so may result in gains. In general, this lunar day is happy and good for relationships. Excellent for undertaking new projects and construction, in general. The favorable direction is the North-

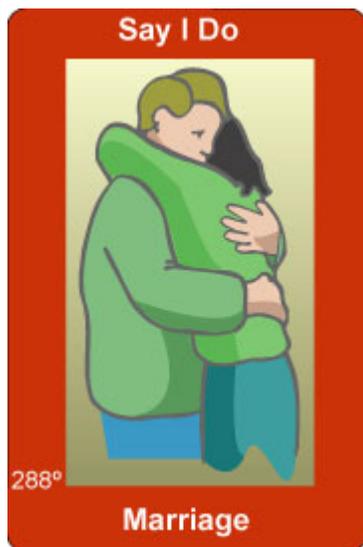
West and this day is good for speaking.

Favorable for Feast Days, Offerings

Favorable for Building

Favorable for Journeys

A person born on this lunar day has a good sense of right and wrong, although the tone may be somewhat serious.



Lunar Day-25 (288°-300°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Dasami

Waning Sextile Aspect

[Heart Yoga, Dakini Day (major)]

OBSERVATION

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.

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.



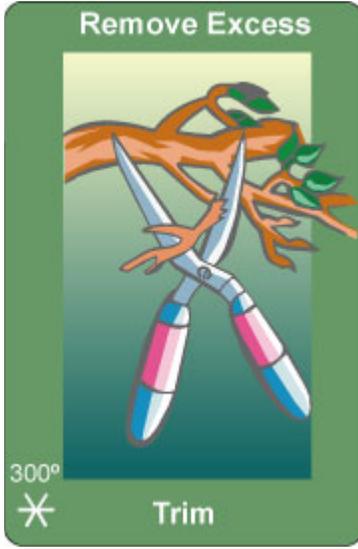
Lunar Day 26: Bliss
Traditional Interpretation

A very auspicious day for travel, with good results. A day that

produces fame and honor from society, but not good for undertaking new projects or construction. The direction North is favorable.

Favorable for Hair Cutting
Not Favorable for Building

For those born on this lunar day, wealth is very good. Marriages and children are favored. Intelligent and pure of mind. Very good for religious practice.



Lunar Day-26 (300°-312 °)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Ekadasi
[Feast Day (Major)]

CRITICIZE IT

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: Splendid
Traditional Interpretation

A good lunar day to undertake new projects and for construction, in general. Not a good day for traveling, and doing so may result in the loss of wealth. Very favorable for study and learning.

Favorable for Hair Cutting

Persons born on this lunar day are somewhat restless, and the mind may wander.



Lunar Day-27 (312°-324 °)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Davadsi
Waning semi-Square Aspect
[Purification]

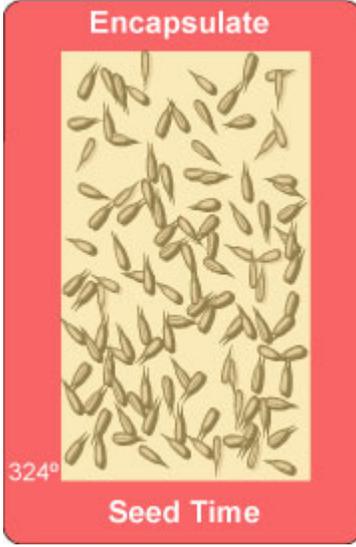
TRIM IT

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: Victory
Traditional Interpretation

Travel on this lunar day is said to be favorable for making friends and creating alliances. A good day for undertaking new projects and beginning construction, as well as education. Good for making friends, pleasures, and enjoyment of all kinds. A person born on this lunar day has kindness, charity, and hospitality.

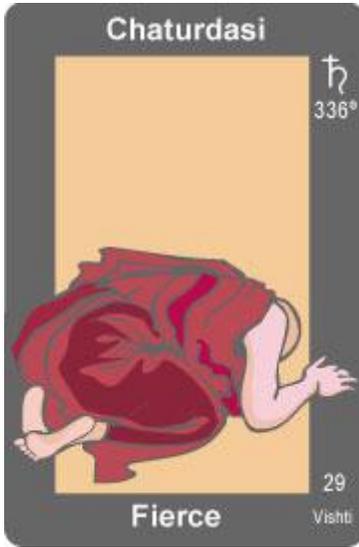


Lunar Day-28 (324°336°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Trayodasi
Waning Semi-Sextile Aspect
[Purification]

SEED TIME

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: Fierce
Traditional Interpretation

No travel is to be undertaken on this day. The direction East is favorable. Starting new projects and construction in general is not favored

Not Favorable for Journeys
Not Favorable for Agriculture

A person born on this day is somewhat aggressive, even bold and daring. Honor from society may come. Wealth is favored and religious activities. Hot temper.

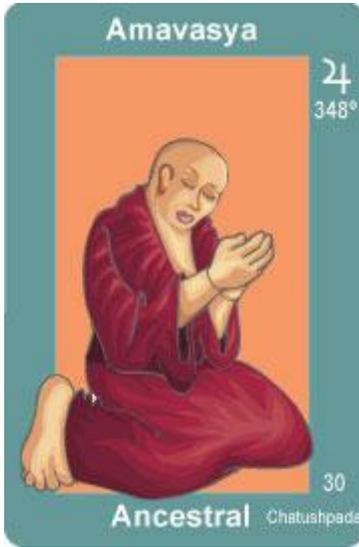


Lunar Day-29 (336°-348°)
Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Chaturdasi
[Dharma Protector (Major)]

ENCAPSULATE

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: Ancestral
Traditional Interpretation

Travel is forbidden on this lunar day. Good for invoking the ancestors, religious practice, and ceremonies. New projects and construction should not be undertaken. The direction to the South-West is favored.

- Not Favorable for Journeys
- Not Favorable for Marriage
- Not Favorable for Agriculture
- Not Favorable for Hair Cutting

Persons born on this lunar day may have mental and physical disturbances. There could be a tendency toward cruelty.



Lunar Day-30 (348°-360°)

Western Interpretation

Sanskrit Name: Amavasya

[Buddha Day, Reading Sutras, Vairochana Practice]

DARK NIGHT OF THE MOON

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.

THE WHOLE PHASE ASPECTS THAT MAKE UP A CYCLE

It's time for a basic introduction to cycles. Astrology, not to mention life itself, is not only filled with cycles, but is completely cyclic. Everything cycles or circles, if only to persist and endure. Anything that does not posit itself repeatedly (endure) does not endure. It is gone and passed into history and eventually out of mind..

Cycles can be as long as time itself, eons and eons. Or cycles can be as short as a breath or a beating heart, cycling and repeating. It seems that everything pulses in order to exist.

And then there are cycles that, like the three bears, are neither too long or too short, but are just right-sized enough for us to be aware of them and perhaps keep tracking of them. The breath, the rotating Earth, the monthly lunar cycle and on and on.

And so, IMO, one of the most useful examinations that we as human beings can undertake, at least in my opinion, is the study of cycles. We know that they come and go, but just how? And how are they similar?

And, surprise, surprise, all cycles share a common nature. They have ups and downs and they come around again and repeat. Not only that, but once you understand the form of cycles, you can take any number of them and line them up next to one another, arranging

them so their greatest points of expansion and contraction match. A lot can be learned from doing this.

The expanded part of the cycle or our breath and the expanded part of our heartbeat have actual similarities. And if you can learn something about the form on one kind of cycle, you will find that this can tell you about that same attribute in another cycle, and that can be invaluable.

And the same is true of the cycle of the zodiac signs, the Chinese animal signs, the wheel of astrological houses, and the synodic return of any two heavenly bodies, such as the solunar monthly cycle of the Earth, Sun, and Moon.

How do all these different circles and cycles fit together. Is the moment when we breathe in and expand our lungs similar to Capricorn or Cancer in the zodiac, or to the 10th house or the 4th house in the chart wheel. Many years ago in the 1970s, the great astrologer Dane Rudhyar (who was visiting my house) and I discussed how these various cycles line up. Rudhyar said you could like them up so they match in many different ways and they all would have some meaning, however odd that might be.

However, the most logical approach, “logically,” is how we would line them up, allowing those who don’t agree to do whatever floats their boat. Here are the obvious:

Most Contracted vs. Most Expanded

Lungs contracted vs. Lungs Expanded

Capricorn vs. Cancer

10th House vs. 4th House

New Moon vs. Full Moon

Conjunction vs. Opposition

Winter Solstice vs. Summer Solstice

... and so on.

All of the above can be looked at cyclically, as a cycle. From the contracted part of the cycle, like the New Moon, the solunar cycle or breath expands outward through the First Quarter and on to the Full Moon, the point of greatest expansion, and then begins to contract through the Third Quarter, crossing into the Fourth Quarter until, fully contracted, it reaches the next New Moon, and on around.

It's the same with breathing, with the heart beating, and so on. All cycles can be examined in this way. I find it most helpful to look at any synodic cycle of two planets, where one is moving slower and the second is moving faster so that it makes a complete cycle of 360-degree compared to the first.

If we look at the various aspects the faster moving body (in this case the Moon) forms to the slower moving body (the Sun), every one of the 360-degrees of the circle is legitimately an aspect, in that without it we would not have a cycle or circle. Astrologers over the centuries have called out these aspects as what I call the "sweet sixteen."

000° Conjunction
030° Semisextile (waxing)
045° Semisquare (waxing)
060° Sextile (waxing)
090° Square (waxing)
120° Trine (waxing)
135° Sesquiquadrate (waxing)
150° Inconjunct (waxing)
180° Opposition
210° Inconjunct (waning)
225° Sesquiquadrate(waning)
240° Trine(waning)
270° Square(waning)
300° Sextile(waning)
315° Semisquare(waning)
330° Semisextile(waning)
360° Next Conjunction

Let's go over these cycle aspects, in order of their occurrence in a complete cycle, keeping in mind that the whole group make one continuous whole, just as a breath or heartbeat is a complete unity.

The Conjunction (000 Degrees)

This is the innermost point in the cycle, where everything starts or comes from, as it emerges from the exhaustion of the previous cycle, the subconscious (or wherever thoughts come from) into our conscious mind. At this point these are more like impulses, sometimes called in the literature a "tone," perhaps more preverbal than verbal - something stirring deep within us. This is a

seminal moment, where seeds or kernels of new experience within us first stir and begin to move, to sprout, so these times are very potent, even if we can't see what they will eventually mean for us. Seminal is the good word.

Another way to look at this aspect is that it is a turning point or major phase shift from coming in to once again going out, and such a dramatic shift involves a complete change of direction, a reversal of polarities.

The Semi-Sextile (030 Degrees)

With the Semi-Sextile, whatever tone or impulse that first stirred within us, here rises dimly to consciousness enough for us to begin to grasp and formulate it. Often, due to its sheer inner potency, these ideas soon take on the form of a vague or general plan for action, something to be done, to eventually be made manifest. As we become aware that we are formulating them, these plans are at first very broad or general in scope, and we look about us on all sides for help to make these ideas real. They are only now just forming. In this sense, we are at this point very community oriented, welcoming any assistance we can find, an Aquarian effort. In fact the zodiac sign Aquarius and the Eleventh House correspond to this phase of the cycle.

Another way to look at this aspect is that it is a recovery period or response after the

Conjunction, where there was a complete phase or polarity reversal. We are adjusting to this change, getting our bearings, and coming up with a new approach, with new plans that are just now emerging. In the solunar cycle, but this time we can see the crescent Moon.

The Semi-Square (045 Degrees)

This is the midway point between the seed impulse or starting point (Conjunction) and the 90-degree point (waxing Square) of first manifestation, so this is a midway or turning point, turning away from the pure idea (seed impulse) and toward making whatever has been grasped of the impulse or new ideas thus far into a plan for actuality. In my experience, these 45-degree points on the circle, which in Tibetan astrology have been called "Tomb Signs," are for most of us more difficult or challenging than the traditional Square (90-degree) points, if only because they are not so obvious or clear. The reason may be that each 45-degree point in the aspect cycle, and there are four of them, presages the more major Square point soon to follow it. Coming events cast their shadows, so to speak. Let me explain.

The 45-degree aspect is the first point in the new cycle where a midway point is reached, in this case moving away from the seed impulse, and toward the manifestation point at 90 degrees. Just as the 90-degree point is midway between the inner (starting point) and

outer hemisphere (Opposition at 180 degrees), so the 45 degree point is midway between the seed impulse (starting point) and the point of first manifestation at the waxing Square (90 degrees). In this sense, the 45-degree point is a harbinger or forerunner of a more powerful experience, but it is also our first contact with this type of separation. That is the challenge of it.

In that sense, the 45-degree point may be more significant to us, at least psychologically, as it introduces us to this type of event - being torn in two directions.

After the 45-degree point, when we reach the more dramatic 90-degree point, we have, in a way, already been inoculated or forewarned of this type of experience. It is now in our memory, from the point or the 45-degree aspect onward.

Be that as it may, the Semi-Square point often brings some obstacle to confront us, if only that it marks a true change in direction that there are obstacles or challenges, and we will find it to be more comfortable by pushing ahead in whatever direction we currently have been in. That change in direction requires that we adjust our own path and direction to accommodate it. And each of the four 45-degree aspects in the cycle (the other two being the 135-degree aspects) requires a slightly different shift on our part.

Here the shift is turning away from still more

new ideas and having to go with those ideas we have managed to grasp. That is the challenge.

The Waxing Sextile (060 Degrees)

The Sextile is one of the four main energy-giving points in the cycle, where we have enough added space or room to actually accomplish something or at least to get some work done, and see progress made. Ideas and plans that were formulated earlier in this cycle are here being advanced, moved closer to the stage of reality at the 90-degree or Square phase.

While this waxing Sextile is a moment of energy, it is also the point where a certain amount of discipline and even sacrifice is required. Another way of saying this is that now we have the space or room needed to work with these emerging ideas.

The fact that it corresponds with the zodiac sign Pisces and the 12th House should make sense in this context. Both of those factors refer to the need for sublimation and sacrifice, a better words might be acceptance, if only to set the stage and help to bring through the plan or concept we have been carrying within us into reality. We are getting our arms around the the issue. It is not unlike a mother preparing to give birth.

The point here is that during this aspect (60 degrees) and from here on up to the 90-

degree aspect, there is little room for distraction and any and all kinds of extraneous matters or obstacles that may appear on the periphery should be ignored or efficiently dealt with, whatever it takes. Pay the dues of the past remaining or left over from the previous cycle and move on. This is not the time for argument or quibbling. We should just suck it up at this point, so that we can bring as much of our emerging concept through to reality as possible, and not have our energy siphoned off by all the material beckoning from our past, whatever may rise up and attempt to block our way.

The Waxing Square (090 Degrees)

This is one of the four main turning or changing points in the aspect cycle, the moment when we cross over from the inside (from our inner world of ideas and plans) to the outside world, where whatever we have been developing up to now is going to be born and makes a start. This is the first physical appearance in the outer sphere, and this aspect corresponds to the zodiac sign Aries, and the First House Cusp, both of which signify the same type of event as the rising sign. Something new rises into view or appears and can be seen.

That “something” we manage to get across at this point may not be much, but it has managed to make it over the great divide from the inside out into this moment, all the way from an idea that stirred in the mind to

now a reality. This Square aspect marks the appearance in fact, and the physical start in the outside world, of something, something we can point to as other than just a thought or idea. It is real, and from this first start or sprout it will grow whatever is the nature of the original impulse or particular combination of planets or bodies. What appears here is undeniable.

The Waxing Trine (120 Degrees)

It is a full thirty degrees from the waxing Square to the waxing Trine, and all of this ground should mark a physical growth and emergence, as whatever is at issue here increasingly takes on form and materiality, that is: becomes real and visible. The Trine aspect is another of the four energy points in the entire cycle, where there is a burst of room, and enough space or expanded atmosphere to really get something done. This is the primary point in the cycle for the active and rapid building of form, and this aspect corresponds to the zodiac sign Taurus and to the Second House, which, as we know, are all about form and materials.

The increased flow of energy here makes this, traditionally speaking, an easy or "good" aspect, and the astrological literature is filled with testimony to the fact that the Trine aspect is to be welcomed whenever it appears. It represents ease and fluidness of motion, a sense of expanded time, and room enough for great things to be accomplished.

At the same time, let's not make too much of a good thing out of the Trine. Yes, it represents freedom or room to accomplish things, to get our arms around a problem or project, but (and especially in whole-chart patterns like the Grand Trine) it equally can bring perhaps too much room or emptiness, which can amount to a sense of loneliness, to being an outsider, standing outside, and experiencing too much distance. So, as with all things, the middle way of balance is the sweet spot.

The Waxing Sesquiquadrate (135 Degrees)

Here is the second 45-degree aspect, one of four aspects that in the Tibetan tradition are called "Tomb Signs." These, and not the Squares (90-degree aspects), are perhaps the real turning points in the aspect wheel, the places where the rubber meets the road. Each 45-degree aspect presages or comes before a major turning point, and by that fact perhaps may be more important as beacons of forthcoming events than the more major aspect that is still to come. In this case, the Sesquiquadrate (135-degree aspect) comes before the Opposition or 180-degree point.

In this waxing 135-degree aspect, the building part of the waxing cycle is essentially complete, much like we reach our physical peak as young adults, but continue to mature until our Saturn return, almost like a ripening. The waxing Sesquiquadrate marks the point

where further pushing forward or driving to create or build can actually be detrimental, and if it has any difficult qualities, it would be if we failed to heed that warning, which is: to ease off.

This is the point where we should pull back on the throttle, stop driving forward, and rather continue working with whatever we have achieved up to now. We are still moving forward, but its like slowing down before a stop sign. If we do that, then we avoid what can be a more friction-filled experience of this semisquare-type aspect. We change our attitude, and adjust our direction, and thus avoid problems. That is the challenge here.

The Waxing Inconjunct (150 Degrees)

Here is the last major aspect before the Opposition. Whatever was conceived at the Conjunction, worked into a plan at the SemiSextile, launched at the Square, and physically built at the Trine is here complete, much like the physical body of the young adult is complete before the Saturn return, but continues to be filled in and ripens.

At the Inconjunct, there should be no more pushing forward, and no more building, but rather allowing our forward movement to coast. This is not the time to start anything new, but instead, a time to finish up whatever is already in the works, what has been set in motion up to now. It is here that, everything is connected up and fine details are followed

out to the nth degree. This phase corresponds to the zodiac sign Gemini and the Third House, so communication and connections are key - anything to do with completion and details.

The Opposition (180 Degrees)

This is the top of the cycle, physically speaking, the most expanded or physically manifest point, the result, so to speak in an outward sense of the entire cycle, whichever two bodies may be involved. This is it! Here is the fruition itself. There is no pushing forward here and, as yet, no decline, but only the full-blown experience - something to feel and be in.

This is not a point, in general, of recognition or awareness of what all that is happening might mean, but rather the experiencing itself of what it means, so that later there is something to be aware of, as the experience wanes and we begin to understand what we have been through. This is the “going through” itself.

Traditionally, this is the point to let go and abandon your self to the experience and drink it in, to feel it fully. This, in the zodiac correspondence, is the sign Cancer, and the Fourth House, the home or body itself. In the major arcane of the tarot cards, this is “The Chariot” or vehicle, the body of the experience. As the philosopher Hegel said:

“We go behind the curtain of the Self to see what is there, but mainly for there to be something to be seen.”

The Inconjunct (210 Degrees)

At this point in the cycle, we are past the Opposition point, and the experience peak is over. As we move away from the Opposition, and begin to get some distance, for the first time, we are able perhaps to put that experience into some kind of perspective, to get a handle on it. Where before we were lost in the experience itself, now we have the first dawning of what it might mean or have been all about, at first perhaps just an awareness that we have been through “something” that up to now we were lost within. That is the nature of experience. We have to actually get into it and go through it. We can't watch it and do it at the same time. First, we do it, then we watch it or realize what we have been through. This phase is the dawn of the watching it, the beginning of realization.

If we look for the corresponding zodiac sign, it is Leo, and for houses, the Fifth House. So, this dawning awareness of having an experience and now somehow owning it fits right into the traditional qualities of pride, ownership, expression, and so on. We have gotten through the experience, survived and come out the other side, and we now are getting our arms around it. We own it. It is our experience, and we can begin to describe and talk about it. This is often connected to

telling or teaching others about whatever we have been through.

The Waning Sesquiquadrate (225 Degrees)

This is another of the four 45-degree points, where there is a shift in perspective or direction, in this case away from the experience of the Opposition, marking the end of the freshness of the Inconjunct, during which the first awareness of the meaning (and experience) of the opposition dawned.

That awareness is more-or-less over, now fading, and probably getting old fast. Talking about, describing the experience, telling or teaching it to others loses its luster and begins to sound hollow. The shift is from a more innocent and fresh feeling, to one requiring a change in our attitude. Here we have the first signs that the party is over, and we had better cast about for what is coming next, and how we will cope with that. As the poet Gertrude Stein wrote "Before friendship faded, friendship faded."

Perhaps the most important point here is that we are now firmly in the waning hemisphere, and while in the waxing hemisphere push and forward motion was the order of the day, here that is reversed. We don't push; we now must learn to pull or, better put, to let things come to us. We don't work to make or present things, but rather we learn to listen and to receive. It is all about handling and accommodating whatever is or has been

experienced.

The 225-degree aspect marks the letting go of the thrill of first discovery that arose from the Opposition, and coping with the fact that this discovery has ended or is now wearing thin, and it is time for us to take a more reflexive and cooperative stance, like: accommodating, listening, adapting. That is the challenge.

The Waning Trine (240 Degrees)

The Waning Trine aspect brings another energy-filled time, one of increased space or elbow room, in which things can happen. Where in the waxing Trine, we got things done, here in the waning Trine, we help things to happen. It is the difference between Judo and Aikido, the former is offensive and attack oriented, the later is passive, oriented more toward accommodating whatever force is already in motion, directing it.

With the 240-degree aspect comes the clear realization that the pride and innocence we had in the discovery time after the Opposition is fully fading. The experience itself is over and at this point that is ever more clear to see. Here is the time to clean up after the party and make the most we can of it. This is an aspect of actively conserving or preserving whatever we can of what we have just been through, one of drawing conclusions, of learning to fail successfully. We are entering the 6th House and the zodiac sign Virgo,

preserving and taking care of “what is.”

This is the aspect of conservation, bar none, and we find ourselves scrambling to cap off the wells, save energy, and plug the leaks. Where before there was what seemed an endless overflowing of experience, here it is clear that that experience is fading, and will soon become even weaker. The action on our parts here must be passive, in that we actively save or gather what we can. This is all about returns, and catching what we can, like cupped hands filled with water - and plugging the leaks.

The Waning Square (270 Degrees)

The Waning Square represents another major turning point, a point where we move from the external or outside, the manifest hemisphere, into the inner, non-physical, or meta-physical hemisphere. It marks the very end of the physical experience we had at the Opposition, and any personal connections we might have had to it up to now. That more personal experience is not only over, but we have withdrawn whatever conclusions we can from it, and have, hopefully, saved those up or taken note of them. The party is over.

In one step we move from a more personal point of view to a much less personal and more objective or impersonal perspective. We agree to leave behind what has already been left behind. You get the idea. Just as the Waxing Square marked a point of the

entrance of something real and substantial into the out world, so the Waning Square marks the beginning of a more spiritual or meta-physical (beyond the physical) experience. We grow up fast, in a single step. We cut the cord. This phase corresponds to the zodiac sign Libra and the Seventh House, which have been traditionally connected to the outer or public (impersonal) and also to marriage.

This phase is related to marriage because it is at this point that the physical experience drops away and can be fully seen and accepted for whatever it was and now is. We can see it, and we accept it, we say "I do," and are able to move on, to drop our personal connections to what we see is going nowhere further. We are, for better or for worse, now beyond it.

The Waning Sextile (300 Degrees)

The Waning Sextile, like the Waxing Sextile, involves an abundance of energy, energy in the sense of increased room or space (perhaps atmosphere is a good word) in which activity can take place. There is room to move around in. Yet, unlike the waxing Sextile, where things are headed and oriented toward forming and building, here it is the reverse.

What has been in a state of deconstruction since the Opposition, here is reaching a more advanced or critical stage. The Waning

Square saw the end of personal attachment to experience (whatever the Opposition brought), and here we take a step back, even farther, to where we actively can work to take things apart that no longer work or have relevance for us.

The Waxing Sextile is the maximum point where the critical faculties are brought to bear in examining the nature of whatever has resulted from the Opposition experience, examining in the sense of sorting the wheat from the chaff, into what has lasting value from what has already lost its meaning. That which has no meaning is here culled out. No wonder that the zodiac sign Scorpio and the Eighth House correspond here, for here all that superfluous is stripped off, leaving the naked truth or results - whatever of lasting value remains.

The Waning SemiSquare (315 Degrees)

The Waning 315-degree phase brings further criticism, here even to criticism itself, finding that enough is enough and even the use of the mind to criticize and remove obstacles begins to shut down, and itself be removed. Things are folding inward. The train is leaving the station and it is time for the conductor to also jump on board. This is another of those 45-degree turning points or "Tomb Signs," that must be negotiated, and there is always some kind of possible friction or attitude adjustment required here. As pointed out above, here we have the leaving off of even

criticism, and the turning ever more inward, partaking of one's own council, and finding rest and stability in a simpler life, more is less. That is the challenge.

The Waning SemiSextile (330 Degrees)

This marks that last phase of the 360-degree cycle, the last stop before the renewal at the Conjunction, and this phase has been called the seed stage or the seed essence, and corresponds to the zodiac sign Sagittarius, and the Ninth House of long journeys. Long journeys here refers to the things that last, whatever lasts longest, and therefore everything that religion is concerned with, that word meaning to bind back and hold what is most long lasting - eternal or lasting truths. The frankness and truth of zodiac sign Sagittarius and the Ninth House fits right in here.

This phase marks the end result of the cycle, the result of the entire experience, here reduced to the seed essence or bare bones, the seed from which the next cycle or circle will spring. We are going to do it all over again.