

Metaphysical Times

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FULL MOON

ISSUE 14 MAY 2023

MAGAZINE

Oracle Review
The Mahābhārata Oracle
by Gita Rash

**The Vast Majority
of All Ancient
Hebrew Israelites
were Goddess
Worshippers**

**Empaths and Empathy
Series Introduction**

Q&A with Nixie:
Beginner Questions

Merry Meet
S. J. Tucker

**Introduction to
Elements: Water**

**CELEBRATING VICTORY
AND STABILITY:**
Beltane AND a Full Moon in Taurus

Metaphysical Times

FULL MOON

MAGAZINE

Want to write for Metaphysical Times Full Moon Magazine?

Metaphysical Times is always willing to consider metaphysical and pagan themed content for the magazine. We serve a spiritually based audience and support artists in their endeavors to do what they love and thrive by providing this space so they can be seen, connect with the right people, and succeed the best way we can.

What We Want for the Full Moon

Text based interviews with pagan business owners, musicians, artists, and authors are always considered. Visual works of art created by humans, poetry, photography, song lyrics, short fictional pieces, personal narratives, spiritual experiences, book, game, music, and movie reviews. At least loosely based on or connected to the Full Moon is preferred.

What We Don't Want

Political rants or screes, satire, stories blaming your problems on other people, articles involving cruelty as entertainment, anything comparing your life to the holocaust, articles about how everything was fine until X, articles promoting violence against any group.

Please read and follow the submission guidelines

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The Metaphysical Times **Full Moon Magazine** is a pagan print and online magazine made in Northern, Utah bringing news, interests, and services to the pagan community in the US and abroad.

The magazine is printed monthly. This publication is a conduit for connecting people from all walks with practices, information, and entertainment that is relevant to them.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Greetings and welcome to the latest issue of Metaphysical Times Full Moon! We are excited to present another collection of thought-provoking and inspiring works from some incredibly talented artists.

Our mission has always been to help artists go from starving to thriving by providing a platform for them to showcase their work. We believe that art is a powerful means of expression and has the potential to change lives. By featuring the works of these

amazing artists, we hope to inspire our readers to explore their own creative potential and support the arts in their community.

We encourage you to take the time to explore the works of the artists featured in this issue. Show your support by following them on social media, sharing their work with your friends, and considering purchasing their art. Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of these artists, many of whom do not have access to

immediate love and support without you.

Thank you for being a part of our community and supporting the arts. We hope that you find value in the works presented in this issue and continue to support the artists who contribute to our publication.

Happy reading and keep creating!

With love and gratitude,

The Metaphysical Times Full Moon Team

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THE VAST MAJORITY OF ALL ANCIENT HEBREW ISRAELITES WERE GODDESS WORSHIPPERS

BY DAVID MOORE

Were you raised as a Jew, Christian or Muslim? Regardless of your answer, you may be aware that all Abrahamic faiths begin with the story of Abraham, formerly called Abram, who was said to be a “friend” of God in the biblical account (see Isaiah 41:8). However, many are unaware that Abram and his father lived in Ur, a land full of Pagan worship with idols of gods and goddesses everywhere to be seen. The famous Chaldeans, makers of the most trusted magickal talismans of their day, settled there later. Did they find an area which gave them inspiration, instruction even?

Magick and witchcraft were commonplace in Ur, and one can imagine the more ancient versions of Diagon Alley from Harry Potter that the city may have featured. Abram’s father, Terah, was a maker and seller of idols, and one story found in the book of Jasher tells of the merchant Terah going away for a time, leaving his son to mind the store and the family shrine. In the story, Abram smashed 11 idols in the shrine room, leaving the largest one and placing the implement of destruction in the hand of that idol, to stage the scene as if the largest idol had smashed all the others. His father was furious and wasn’t fooled by the gesture. Abram got into a lot of trouble for that blasphemous rebellion!

Not only was Abram steeped in polytheistic idolatry worship growing up, but his children seem to have never lost the habit. Sun worship, Goddess worship, and a trio who seem an awful lot like the many other Pagan triads of divinity (Father, Mother, Son) were rife in his descendant’s lives for many generations, possibly even until today. Evidence of this can be found in Douglas Petrovich’s

2017 book, *The World’s Oldest Alphabet*, subtitled *Hebrew as the Language of the Proto-Consonantal Script*. Petrovich was backed by all major scholars and professors of related ancient text studies, unanimously. They had all suspected for a long time that this difficult-to-translate ancient alphabet was most likely Semitic, but they hadn’t guessed it was actually Hebrew! The tablets and inscriptions they had were dated back to

between 1842 and 1446 BCE, a period that closely matches the period between the Israelites meeting up with the Egyptians and through their later enslavement by the Pharaoh Khufu. I would date some of them earlier by a few hundred years, placing the Exodus at the end of the Old Kingdom, but the dates come reasonably close, considering the methods used to date them.

In Petrovich’s book, he provides translations of many ancient texts in this script, and some are set in the period of time that some historians insist never even happened. I had butterflies in my stomach when I first ordered this volume in 2018. The evidence suggests that this saga did happen, in fact, and that the Israelites, when enslaved in Egypt, were nearly all Goddess worshippers! According to Petrovich, the Israelites, then a nomadic nation of wandering people, met with the Old Kingdom Egyptians, and their initial impression was that they had much in common. They



recognized Hathor on the armor and banners of the Egyptians and saw her as the same Goddess as their Ba’aleth. These ‘shining people’ they met were hospitable to them because they served the same Goddess, and they welcomed them to an audience with the Pharaoh. That ruler liked them so much when he saw that they shared religion in common that he offered land for them to settle, and they accepted. This isn’t just a bible story – we now have translated texts from the Hebrews of that day themselves, describing various parts of the same story. This is definitely the smoking gun many conflicted historians needed.

We are all familiar with the story of how Moses went up onto Mount Sinai to ‘receive the tablets with the 10 commandments’ (clearly, he was working with radioactive materials and creating them himself though), and while he was gone the Israelites got Aaron to create a golden calf idol for a ceremony they wanted to hold

in honor of Hathor, who they sorely missed. Few actually think about the calf's significance, and make the Hathor connection, or realize that they already were a goddess-worshipping people before they even met the Egyptians, so evidence is in order. Here's a brief overview proving various points we discussed and more, in the form of translated inscriptions:

Sinai 349, dated around 1480 BCE: "He sought occasion to cut away to barrenness our great number, our swelling without measure. They yearned for Hathor, but the quiver of our brothers was thoroughly despised, so he performed terror against their quiver and brought about a great cry of wailing." Here we see evidence that the Pharaoh of their day was oppressing them, and that they felt Hathor did not side with them but with the Egyptians. Fascinatingly, they "yearned for Hathor" – we see this from their own handwriting.

Sinai 353, dated around 1480 BCE: "It is a time to be hopeless. The Lady (Ba'aleth) had organized for battle. We banded together to remain with heads held high. We celebrated a festival of the sun, which came out in order to hold us back." Without Hathor's favor (or as they called Her, The Lady or Ba'aleth) they held a sun festival to Re (Ra), the Sun God of Egypt! They identified the Egyptians as the people of Hathor, so they felt that they had rebelled against Her, and hoped for Her forgiveness. Some of the other inscriptions had language referring to those who rebelled against Her as "apostates" by Petrovich's translation, and that those who offered her sacrifices and kept their devotion were rewarded with prosperity.

Sinai 357, dated around 1480 BCE: "A curse of 100-fold has passed through our people. A swooping has befallen us. A multitude has surrounded us. My father was completely depleted by the king." This matches, Petrovich notes, the time in history when the Israelites were oppressed militarily by the Egyptians. (Compare to the

biblical account in Exodus 1:8-14.)

Sinai 361, dated to around 1446 BCE: "Our bound servitude had lingered. Moses then provoked astonishment. It is a year of astonishment because of the Lady" What? Not only is Moses named in this period-dated script, but they also give credit to Ba'aleth, The Lady, for Moses' actions? Was Moses actually acting under Her banner at first? How much of his own account was not actually truthful? It seemed, from the biblical account, that every time Moses did a magical trick, the Egyptian priests could do it too. He had grown up in the house of the Pharaoh, in a time when all of the royal family was constantly educated, for their whole lives. Could he have been merely performing well-practiced Egyptian magick?

Sinai 376 dates to the year 1772 BCE, they say, and it reads, "The house of the vineyard of Asenath and its innermost room are engraved. They have come to life." In the bible account, Pharaoh gave Joseph a wife who was the daughter of Potiphar (priest of On), named Asenath. See Genesis 41:45. Here she is, mentioned by name on this ancient limestone inscription! This further anchors the story in reality, but it does much more. Here was Joseph's wife, after she was dead, being enshrined and magical charms engraved and energized, brought to life! This isn't a custom peculiar to the Mosaic monotheistic worship brand. It's Pagan to the core, and it was recorded by Hebrew hands, not Egyptian.

What happened later, after the Hebrews settled in Canaan for an extended period of time? Centuries after leaving Egypt, the Hebrews formed two distinct kingdoms, Israel and Judah. The former encompassed cities such as Shechem and Samaria, while the latter included Jerusalem and its temple. Although the kingdoms separated due to a rebellion over heavy taxation, their main difference is noteworthy: while the smaller of the two, Judah, adhered somewhat to the God of Moses, the

much larger Israel, which contained the other ten tribes, returned to their prior idolatrous practices, including sun worship and other Pagan rituals. It may seem curious to ask how an entire nation could "return" to a way of life they supposedly abandoned long ago. In fact, it is probable that these Pagan practices were maintained within family units for generations, even throughout their time in the wilderness, their sojourn in Egypt, and their subsequent settlement in Canaan. Therefore, it is safe to assume that for the vast majority of their biblical history, from Abraham to the division of these kingdoms and beyond, the Hebrews were primarily Goddess-worshipping Pagans.

Although Douglas Petrovich's groundbreaking translation work is spotlighted here, there is a great deal more information available on this topic if you are interested. Check out the work of Frank Moore Cross to clearly see the connection between Israelite religion and Canaanite religion. Frank shows that Canaanite religion is largely the source of Israelite religion. Also, Raphael Patai explores ancient Hebrew goddesses and their place in early Hebrew religion. Where I separate from Patai, though, is that he states that these Pagan beliefs were supplanted by monotheistic beliefs. Still, it's a great read and there is a ton of background information that may frame this article better.

This offers clear evidence that, even so many generations from Abraham, his nation of Israel were Goddess-worshipping Pagans. Many have noticed that the Israelites seemed to become attached to Egyptian Goddess worship while they lived there, and many have noted that the Goddess worship, especially the veneration of Asherah, was widespread in Israel and Judah up to the time of the Babylonian exile. I think that the evidence actually suggests much more than that, namely that the vast majority of all ancient Hebrew Israelites were Goddess worshipping Pagans all along.

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MERRY MEET S.J. TUCKER

S.J. Tucker is the voice of lore at the campfire, the sharp laughter of modern myth, a performing songwriter who's proud to contribute to the soundtrack of our collective imagination. Well loved at fannish & witchy events at home and abroad since 2002, she wields an award-winning body of original music known for changing lives and healing wounded hearts.

Whether you found her through solid crowd favorites like "Firebird's Child" and "Cheshire Kitten", or you're just encountering her for the first time, S. J. (Sooj to fans and friends) has a song for you. In performance with deft guitar, skillful hand drums, and versatile vocals, she runs a shape-shifter's gamut from silly to sacred and back again, embodying the truth in our songs and stories, the spirit of community and wit.

Hi, S.J. Tucker! Thank you for joining us today. When I was researching you, I came across a quote that said, "When I watch [S. J.] play and sing, the first word that comes to mind is pure: pure music, pure ability, pure art, pure intention, pure emotion." How do you feel about that statement?

Thank you! It's a wonderful thing to hear. I aim to put my heart and soul into everything I do, and it's nice to know that it comes through to people.

That's great to hear. So, can you tell us a little about yourself and how you relate to the Pagan Community?



Absolutely. I had the good fortune to be welcomed by the Pagan community in West Tennessee just as I was embarking upon the early days of my music career from 2001-2004, and my teachers in that community were very supportive of the ways I grew to intertwine my music and my magical practice. The witchy world, wherever

it thrives across the globe, is both my main audience niche and where I feel most comfortable, so I feel extremely lucky as an artist.

That's great to hear that you have found a supportive community through your music. What do you know and love most about Paganism?

In my experience, Paganism allows for a great deal of safety in being a great big nerd about the things you love, as well as opportunities not only to be over-the-top but also to not take oneself too seriously. Not every aspect of modern culture supports these things! You can dance your heart out at a fire circle, and no one will comment on the way it looks. You can talk with someone for hours about magical practice and potentially make a lifelong friend. You can honor the changes of your life in a supportive, albeit imperfect community, rather than be made to feel inadequate because of them. This is very special. It's even more true amongst Pagan musicians, I've found. My dearest friends and colleagues would all rather collaborate than compete; I treasure this attitude among us. We're here to make magic and to inspire others, and the Pagan community knows this and sees it in us. That recognition allows us to bloom and grow in astonishing, nourishing ways as performers and as people.

It's great to hear how Paganism has helped you find a supportive community to grow in. What do you dislike most about it?

“When I watch [S. J.] play and sing, the first word that comes to mind is pure: pure music, pure ability, pure art, pure intention, pure emotion.”

*—Kris Schulz, Everybody Speaks Music podcast,
Horizon School of Music Vancouver, BC*

We have so much room to grow, so much awareness of our privilege to work on, and all that goes with it, but that's why we call it “work”. The work is the work of a lifetime, and it's worth doing! As musicians in this community, we have an opportunity



to heal and to lead by example. As part of the greater Pagan community, I have made plenty of culturally insensitive mistakes in my songwriting before, and I continue to work to do better and to repent of my ignorance.

That's a really important point to make. If you could do anything to fix the world's problems, what would it be?

I wish everyone could have a supportive family from birth, inspiring and encouraging teachers as children, and all their emotional and

basic needs truly met. That's how I grew up. I had no idea for a very long time that this was not how life worked for everyone. I wish it were. I'm no superhero, but my wish for my songs is that they give comfort and make life a little easier for those who hear them.

We hear you're participating in or hosting some events. Can you tell us a little about them?

Sure! I give monthly online shows at onlineconcertthing.com, which is an independent streaming platform founded by my bandmates in Canada. I'll also be performing in-person shows coast to coast in the US this year, including Tampa area on March 31, Chicago Steampunk Exposition on April 16, Harmony in the Hollow fest in Central Arkansas Memorial Day Weekend, Untamed Fest in Bailey, CO on June 3, Summer Magick Fest

in Orlando on June 9, Pagan Spirit Gathering in Missouri from June 18-24, Sacred Harvest Fest north of MSP in Minnesota on August 12, and Hexenfest in NorCal on October 28!

That's a lot of shows! How can we find out more about them?

You can find all of my tour dates and online show info at www.sjtucker.com/tour, as well as through Songkick.

We also hear you've got a new album coming out. Can you tell us about it?

Yes, I'm one of 19 musical collaborators producing a new, unreleased song for a record called The Red Album: Pagan Voices for Reproductive Rights! We plan to release it on June 24, which is the anniversary of Roe v. Wade

being struck down. Sales of both the download and the physical CD will support both Elevated Access and the National Abortion Fund.

That's great to hear. Where can people get it online?

We will open pre-orders soon through Bandcamp at www.theredalbum.bandcamp.com.

What can people expect when they listen to the album?

They can expect new music from 19 different pagan musicians and bands, all on the theme of reproductive rights for everyone.

Awesome. Where can people find you online?

They can find me on my website at www.sjtucker.com, on social media

through my Linktree at www.linktree.com/SJTuckerMusic, and my music is available to stream on all the major platforms.

Finally, any special shoutouts or gratitude you want to express before we wrap this up?

I want to give a shoutout to my online concert audience and all the folks who continue to follow my career, as well as brand new fans. Each one of you makes my world go 'round, and I am so lucky to have you. Keep dreaming; you are more than enough; thank you.

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us, SJT. We wish you all the best!

Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Find S.J. Tucker at
www.sjtucker.com
www.linktr.ee/SJTuckerMusic

ALL THINGS RED ALBUM

We're thrilled to be covering all things related to The Red Album, a compilation album featuring 19 artists that supports reproductive rights. The making of the songs is well underway, and we've created our own fundraiser to support the album's production and promotion costs.

Artists contributing to the album have also started offering free listening opportunities to their songs, which can be watched on The Red Album's Facebook page. Don't forget to check them out and show your support!

We've created a Discount Code "THEREDALBUM" that donates 25% of each new subscription to our Meta-Moon Subscription to the album creators to use for production and promotional costs through the end of 2023.

In addition, all proceeds from the sale of the album will go to two great causes - the National Abortion Federation and Elevated Access. The National Abortion Federation is a non-profit organization that supports abortion providers in delivering patient-centered, evidence-based care. Elevated Access, launched in April 2022, is a volunteer pilot network that flies people in private aircraft at no cost to access abortion and gender-affirming care.

Check out The Red Album's website to see all the musicians, songs, and plans for the upcoming release. And don't forget to support the album via the GoFundMe page, where donations are contributed to the causes it supports.

Thank you for your support, and stay tuned for more updates on The Red Album!



Check out The Red Album's website here:

www.pagansong.com/the-red-album
to see all the musicians, songs, and plans for the upcoming release!

Support the Album via GoFundMe here:

www.gofund.me/aec4feee

INTRODUCTION TO THE ELEMENTS: WATER

BY JEDITE83

Wicca is a modern pagan, witchcraft religion that has its roots in ancient pagan beliefs. One of the central components of Wiccan beliefs is the concept of the elements. The elements are Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Spirit, and each represents a different aspect of the universe and the self.

The element of Water is one of the most powerful and influential elements in Wicca. It is associated with emotions, intuition, and the subconscious mind. In Wiccan belief, water is considered a feminine energy and is associated with the goddesses of the moon, such as Artemis and Diana. Water is also associated with the cycle of birth, life, and death, as well as the flow of emotions and psychic energy.

Water is often used in Wiccan rituals for purification and cleansing. It is used to cleanse the body and the aura, as well as to cleanse objects and spaces. This is because water has a natural ability to absorb and carry away negative energy and is considered to have powerful healing properties. In Wiccan rituals, water is often blessed or charged with positive energy to enhance its cleansing properties.

Water is also a symbol of renewal and transformation. In Wiccan belief, water represents the journey of the soul, and is seen as a way to connect with the divine. When Wiccans meditate on the element

of water, they often focus on the emotions and the subconscious mind, in order to gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the universe. This meditation can also help to increase intuition and psychic abilities.

In Wiccan spells and rituals, the



Water

element of water is often used to attract love, peace, and healing. For example, Wiccans may create a love spell by filling a jar with water and adding herbs, crystals, and other symbols of love. The jar may then be placed in a place of honor in the home, or carried with the Wiccan as a talisman.

Water is also used in protection spells and rituals. For example, a Wiccan may sprinkle holy water

around their home to protect it from negative energy or perform a ritual bath to protect themselves from harm. The element of water is also associated with the west, and is often used in Wiccan rituals to balance the elements and bring harmony to the self and the universe.

In Wiccan beliefs, the element of water is seen as a symbol of the emotional and intuitive aspects of the self, and as a powerful tool for purification, renewal, and transformation. Wiccans often connect with the element of water through meditation, ritual, and spellwork, in order to gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the universe. Whether used for purification, protection, or attraction, the element of water is an important and influential aspect of Wiccan beliefs and practices.

In conclusion, the element of water is a central component of Wiccan beliefs and practices. It represents the emotions, intuition, and the subconscious mind, and is associated with the goddesses of the moon, birth, life, and death. Water is used for purification, protection, and attraction, and is often seen as a symbol of renewal and transformation. By connecting with the element of water, Wiccans can gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the universe, and bring balance and harmony to their lives.

THE CYBORG DRAGON

BY DIANE VIERRA

Otto heard the main door hiss as it shut behind him. He sat down in the pilot seat, buckling himself in. He stretched his palm out over the hearth crystal at the center of the dashboard. Its soft blue glow lit up his hand where it rested. The system hummed to life and the windshield opened up to the world outside. His dragon, Creature, came online and shifted his weight, causing the ship center to tilt slightly. Otto took a deep breath. "How are you feeling? You ready for this?" he asked.

Through the windshield, he saw Creature shift his healed claws into the earth. "If we don't do this today, we never will," he replied. His voice scratched with the feedback through the speakers. "I certainly won't."

Otto nodded and ignited the engine. Creature groaned but he was careful not to move until the thrusters began to hum. The gauges flickered on, bulbs flashed as the ship came alive. The computer announced across the screen, "Thrusters online. Commence combustion, fire one."

Slowly, with his joints aching, Creature walked out of the cavern and broke into a run for the prairie. He kept his pace as steady as he could, with Otto cruising on the wheel. The screen beeped, revealing a shot of another dragon, silver scales shimmering as he chased them from behind.

Otto gulped. "Creature, are you seeing that?" he croaked. He felt Creature turn his head around to face the back. "Randolf!" he gasped. "He must have found out we were doing this!" Creature turned his mind inside to the cockpit, so the crystal blinked a huge blue eye at Otto. "I don't know if I can run much faster than this. What do we do?"

Before Otto could respond, Randolf came up to Creature's shoulder. He ran near Creature's head, but he didn't make a move to slow them down. He nodded at Creature, and ran ahead to the edge of the cliff. Otto looked out the main window, and then he glanced at the hearth crystal that blinked with Creature's eye. Without a word between each other, Otto activated the emergency accelerator to help Creature run faster. Creature's pulse thrummed into the crystal, increasing in speed as they approached the cliff.

Randolf leaped off the edge, diving and lifting back into the sky with ease. Creature panted as he ran after him, and Otto could see the data of his nervous system reacting as they drew closer. "You got this, buddy, you got this," he murmured. He knew Creature could hear him. He pushed the yoke forward as Creature came to the edge and leaped into the air. Creature dipped his head and dove down, struggling to open his wings. Otto glanced frantically at the computer, which flashed, "Thrusters recalibrating. Thrusters recalibrating." Come on! Otto clenched his teeth and gripped the yoke until his hands turned white. Finally, mercifully, the screen flashed green letters: "Thrusters engaged. Commencing wing lift."

Creature's wings released their joints and opened up. Creature gasped and flapped his wings hard,

pulling himself into the sky. He soared into the clouds after Randolph, who gave a triumphant roar that shook the frame of the ship. Creature roared back and Otto gave a loud war whoop. They followed Randolph through the air like a living roller coaster, the wind filling their wings like sails. Creature's adrenaline pumped through the wiring and the hearth crystal thrummed with life under Otto's hand. Otto beamed. Creature was flying. For the first time since his body got destroyed, he was flying. He was free.



MONTHLY READINGS

WITH NIXIE VALE

I have tried change the energy up a little for this readings, and I am using one of my colour-themed decks, I will be using the stunning Dragon Oracle deck by Diana Cooper. The cards themselves were designed by Carla Lee Marrow.

Aries

Dusky Pink Dragon from Andromeda

In the next few weeks, you may start to experience changes in how you love, by this I mean that you are learning what it means to touch the lives of others with the gentle hand spiritual and universal love. During these next few weeks, start working with the colour pink, a symbol of love in all its forms. It can help you prepare yourself for this change.

Taurus

Thor's Red, Black and Gold Dragon

Over the coming weeks expect rapid changes and transformations happening in your life. You have been preparing for this, and now you need to trust the preparations and the Universe, because you do deserve this. You have earned this. You may find that clearing out old energies helpful, allowing room for these rapid transformations to be acclimated without hassle.

Gemini

Orange Dragon

You have become more aware of the 'light' in others, and this may have taken you by surprise, but this is part of a new journey for you. The inner desire to bring people together, and build communities is driving you right now, and over the next few weeks this awareness will help you bring people who need each other together, you will be a cosmic GPS for their light.

Cancer

Black Dragon from Saturn

Right now you are being guided to take some time to rest and recharge your batteries. You have become creatively tapped out, and feel like you haven't had any good ideas in months. The old saying "you can't pour from an empty cup" is very pertinent right now. Over the next few weeks take the time for yourself, and disconnect for a while, your creativity will flow once more, but not if you leave the blockage there.

Leo

Source Dragon

Over the next few weeks you are going to be feeling a sense of stillness, this is not to be confused with being stagnant. This stillness is going to open new doors of awareness, and you will find yourself seeing things differently, where you always planned ahead, right now you will find joy and magic in the moment, in the peace of silence comes guidance.

Virgo

Earth and Fire Dragon

There has been a sense of being unfulfilled over the last few weeks, and you are finding yourself becoming bored with helping people, not because of lack of recognition, rather it's because the feeling you get from giving and helping others has diminished. Right now you need to remember like the moon we go through phases, and you will find that intense joy you feel when living a life of service. Don't turn your back just because you are in a funk.

Libra

Sunshine Yellow Dragon

You have begun to notice that animals are drawn to you, and you can't figure out why, it's because over the last few months your energy has changed, and your aura is acting like a bacon to them. We live in a planet with life of all kinds, and right now is the time to learn how to serve them, and the first part of this is to understand their needs and give all life the respect you give people. They are little souls on a journey too.

Scorpio

Air and Water Dragon

In recent months you have been trying to hone your intuitive skills, and you will start to notice over the next few months this work paying off. The awareness, clarity and understanding that is starting to happen will change how you interact with the world. You may find yourself making different decisions than you would have 12 months ago, and while this may be a little alarming, it is coming from a place of wisdom and knowledge beyond our physical world.

Sagittarius

Air Dragon

You have been finding that misunderstandings happening regularly, and this is because of tensions within yourself causing misunderstandings in what you want to say and what is said. Over the next few weeks, take some time out of your day to relax, to breathe and allow yourself to unwind. This will help you to communicate clearly and with honesty, don't be afraid of saying you made a mistake, because this is part of winds you into knots.

Capricorn

Royal Blue and Gold Dragon

You have earned the knowledge and wisdom that you have now, but others have made you feel like you don't. Over the next few weeks, you will start to care less about what others think, and start to find your power and strength in your wisdom. This is a time to rise above the naysayers and doubters and speak with truth and dignity.

Aquarius

Rose Pink Dragon

You have a wonderful heart and loving spirit, and it is this which will help transcend your emotions more in line with the "Cosmic Heart" of the Universe. Over the next few weeks you will begin to notice those around you start behaving differently, and this is because your energy and aura have changed frequency. Your energy is expanding, and this will mean you can touch the lives of others, who before you couldn't reach.

Pisces

Rainbow Dragon

Rainbows symbolise promise, and right now you may be finding doors opening and opportunities dropping left and right, and it is up to you to seize them, no one is going to do that for you. In the next few weeks you may feel like you don't deserve these opportunities, or you don't feel you're good enough. It's time to move away from these patterns of thinking and embrace the things happening.

KITCHEN WITCH'S CAULDRON EGGS IN PURGATORY

Ingredients

1 tablespoons olive oil
1 clove garlic, peeled
¼ teaspoon crushed red
pepper flakes
1 red jalapeno, chopped fine
1 14 ounce can diced tomatoes
½ teaspoon salt
4 eggs
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan
cheese
Toasted bread, to serve



Method

Add your oil to a frying pan over medium heat. Grate in the garlic clove using a microplane or fine grater, then add the crushed red pepper flakes and the chopped jalapeno. Let this cook for a minute or two or until it becomes fragrant and the jalapeno starts to soften a bit.

Add in the tomatoes and salt, and give it a good stir. Let this cook until it comes to a bubble.

Crack your eggs into four corners of the pan and sprinkle over the Parmesan cheese. Partially cover the pan, allowing space for steam to escape, and let it gently bubble away for about five minutes or until the egg whites are set. Remove from heat.

Serve immediately with lots of toast and some chilli oil if you want a bit of extra heat.

Enjoy!

from: www.awesomeon20.com/eggs-in-purgatory



READING TAROT FOR YOURSELF: THE MISTAKES AND PITFALLS

When you start learning to read and interpret meanings of Tarot, it's important to listen to your intuition; but... when you read for yourself, mistakes can be made, and you may fall into pitfalls. It's easy to see and manipulate the cards to fit your own agenda, wants and desires. It's easy to overlook anything negative because you Don't want to see it. It's easy to ignore messages because you Don't like the cards that came into your reading. Here are a few tips in how to avoid making mistakes when reading for yourself.

AVOID DOING A READING WHILE EMOTIONAL.

When you are very emotional you may find you're unable to remain objective about the cards or their messages.

DRAW FOR CLARIFICATION

When reading for Yourself it's easy to fall into drawing more and more cards to clarify what's being said. The more you draw the more complex the reading can become. Stick to 2 or 3 extra cards for clarifications.

MULTIPLE READINGS

When you're doing a reading for a specific situation or topic it's ill advised to do readings on it over and over. What for a few weeks - in would say a full moons cycle (4 weeks-ish) before revisiting the same questions. Multiple Readings can negate the message of the cards.

FINDING THE "RIGHT" ANSWER

With so many different resources for meanings available in books and online it's very easy to go searching for answers that you want... the answers that are convenient instead of trusting your own feelings and instincts.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Choosing a complex or big spread will end up complicating a simple question. Most questions only require a few cards to bring you answers. Why complicate something that never needed to be?

BE OBJECTIVE

When you're doing a reading for yourself, it's always a good idea to talk to someone about it to get the opinion of someone else. You can be objective, yes; but I'd still day go to another reader friend and just get them to check it over in case you missed something important.

EMPATHS AND EMPATHY

SERIES INTRODUCTION

BY NIXIE VALE

Now, I cannot tell you what it is like to be an Empath, or what struggles empathic people face, but I do have a little experience with helping Empaths with various problems. I've found that when I am around Empaths it has 1 of 2 results, I can negate their talents, or I magnify them ten-fold, making them more sensitive. I think the best place to start with this piece will be to what an Empath is, and what it means to be empathic in a broad sense.

What is an Empath?

An Empath is someone that is sensitive to the energies of other people. They have an innate ability to perceive others and intuitively feel them. Being an Empath doesn't mean that you are limited to only feeling the emotions of others, like many think being an Empath means you can feel physical sensitivities, physical, emotional, and spiritual urges. Your life is influenced by intuition, and

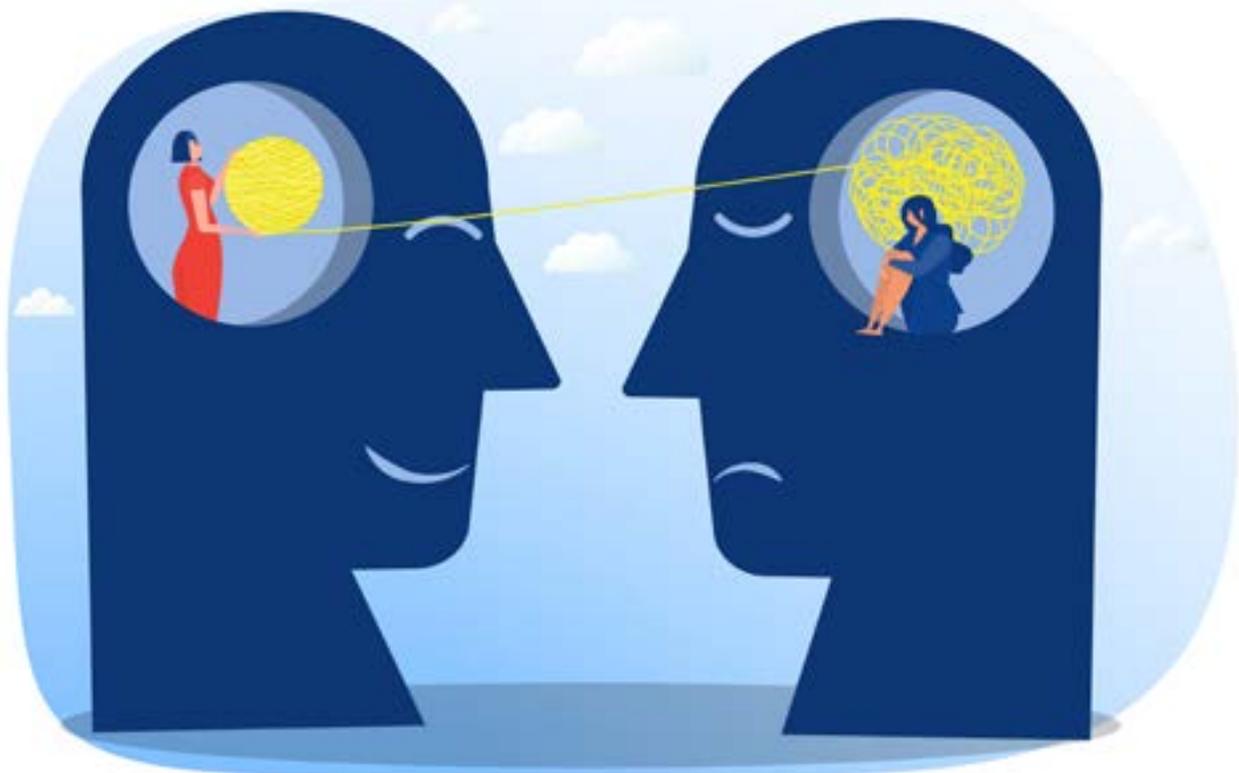
the desires, thoughts, moods, and beliefs that others carry. There is no way you can become Empathic, you are born that way, or you aren't. I wasn't, even though I do have a heightened sense of intuition that comes with my "gifts"... Anyway....

Being an Empath can be overwhelming on any given day in any given way, and for many it is a constant struggle to know what their own feelings and desires is, and what is coming from another. Many empaths feel run down and fatigued from being bombarded by what others are feeling/desiring/thinking/etc... So many find that being reclusive and having limited contact with others is the way to go, while others have managed to learn to "block" what others are feeling and are better for it. I have known some that prefer to just roll with it and have fared the worst for it. They were like a ticking time bomb.

For many Empaths the hardest thing to

live with isn't feeling what others feel, it is the lack of understanding from those around them, so many of them suppress it as much as they can. Empaths do not choose to be that way; it is something that they are born with - as much as having blue eyes is something I was born with. The abilities they have are natural, and like everyone else, desire to be understood and accepted for who they are. At a young age, Empaths will create a positive or negative attitude to their abilities, and as such will either have a bad relationship with them and struggle with them, or a have good relationship with them and embrace what comes.

Sometimes the greatest gift you can give an Empath is understanding that they have a different set of struggles, sometimes they are the ones that need encouragement and help dealing what is going on, a little assistance goes a long way for an empath.



CELEBRATING VICTORY AND STABILITY: BELTANE AND A FULL MOON IN TAURUS

FULL MOON IN TAURUS: MAY 2023 RITUAL

BY ELYSE WELLES

May 5th is a triplicate of celebrations: the full moon in Taurus, Beltane, and Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday celebrating victory over the French army! This is a unique opportunity to call on the crossroads of these energetic celebrations: victory and stability.

Taurus is the second astrological sign in the zodiac, and it is associated with stability, sensuality, and material abundance. Taurus is ruled by Venus, the planet of love and beauty, which highlights the sign's appreciation for all things luxurious and aesthetically pleasing. Taurus energy is patient, practical, and determined, and it is known for its ability to persevere through challenges and work towards long-term goals.

Beltane, on the other hand, is a pagan festival that celebrates the midpoint between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. It is traditionally held on May 1st and is associated with fertility, growth, and the return of the sun's warmth and light. Beltane is a time to celebrate the abundance of nature, to honor the union between the masculine and feminine energies, and to offer gratitude for the blessings of life.

Despite their differences in origin and symbolism, Taurus and Beltane are connected by their themes of victory and celebration. Taurus represents the energy of perseverance, determination, and hard work that is necessary to achieve victory in any endeavor. Beltane, meanwhile, is

a time of celebration and rejoicing for the abundance and growth that is possible when we align with the natural rhythms of the universe.

Together, Taurus and Beltane remind us that victory is not just about achieving a goal or obtaining material wealth, but also about celebrating the joy, beauty, and abundance that life has to offer. By aligning ourselves with the energies of Taurus and Beltane, we can work towards our goals with patience and determination, while also taking time to celebrate our successes and appreciate the blessings that surround us.

Here's a Beltane and Full Moon in Taurus ritual to celebrate stability and invite future achievements.

MATERIALS NEEDED

A green candle

A yellow candle

Incense (sandalwood, jasmine or frankincense)

A lighter

Two pieces of paper and a pen

Fresh flowers or herbs (such as lavender, chamomile, or rose)

A bowl of water

PREPERATION

Set up your altar with the green and yellow candles on either side of the bowl of water, and the incense in the back.

Take a few deep breaths and center yourself. Call the quarters or otherwise set sacred space the way you usually do. This is a ritual that could also be done with others as well.

THE RITUAL



Light the green candle and say, "I light this candle to honor the energy of Taurus, the sign of stability and abundance. May its grounding energy support me as I celebrate my achievements and invite future success."

Light the incense and let the smoke fill the air. Waft the incense over you to bless yourself, and over the bowl of water. Say, "I offer this incense as a symbol of Beltane, the celebration of fertility and growth. May it help me sow the seeds of success and call in abundance."

Take the piece of paper and write down your achievements and successes from the past year, since last Beltane; or since the start of the calendar year if that feels too hard to remember! Write down everything you are proud of and everything that brought you joy and satisfaction.

Hold the piece of paper in your hands and say, "I honor my achievements and offer gratitude for all that I have accomplished. May this energy of gratitude and celebration attract even more abundance and success into my life."

Roll up the piece of paper very tightly, and burn it in the green candle's light, and say "I release my achievements and successes into the universe, trusting that they will continue to nourish and support me on my journey."

On the second piece of paper, write all the goals and successes you hope to invite in the coming year, or through the rest of the calendar year.

Light the yellow candle and say, "I light this candle to invite future achievements and success into my life. May its energy of manifestation and optimism support me in achieving my goals."

Roll up this piece of paper very tightly and burn it in the yellow candle's flame, saying, "I release my fears of lack, and embrace abundance, trusting that I will be supported on my continued journey on the path of success."

Take the fresh flowers or herbs and arrange them in the bowl, focusing on the beauty and delicacy of the act. As you do so, say, "I offer these flowers as a symbol of beauty and growth. May they remind me of the abundance and joy that is possible in my life."

Remember to take action towards your goals and trust that the universe will support you on your journey towards stability and success. Blessed be!

Sit in silence for a few minutes, visualizing your future achievements and feeling the energy of Beltane and Taurus supporting you.

When you feel ready, blow out the candles, or let them burn out, and end the ritual as you usually do -- releasing any deities or quarters you called in, thanking them for their support.

Remember to take action towards your goals and trust that the universe will support you on your journey towards stability and success. Blessed be!

FEATURED ARTIST: JESSICA FREEMAN



Jessica Freeman's interest in art began at an early age.

As a young adult she traveled to Europe and Japan and worked as a model.

"I went to museums whenever I was able to and was mesmerized by the new cities and cultures."

She studied at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and later graduated with honors and a BFA in crafts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

She has taught stained glass classes at The Visual Arts Center of Richmond and taught stained glass, acrylic painting and drawing classes at Sidestreet Gallery in Colonial Heights, Virginia.

She currently resides in Hopewell, Virginia with her husband and cats, Muffy and Elizabeth.

FIND JESSICA AT:

<https://fjessicamarie2.wixsite.com/website>

ART OF THE WEEK



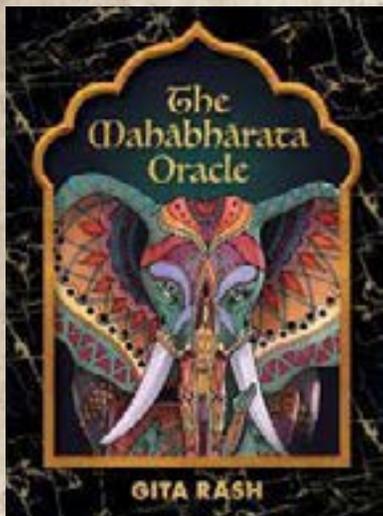
ORACLE REVIEW

THE MAHĀBHĀRATA ORACLE

BY GITA RASH

REVIEW BY CATT FOY

36 cards, \$24.99



So many oracle decks and tools are focused on European traditions—Celtic, Germanic, Scandinavian, etc. So it is refreshing to find new decks with a focus from other traditions. The Mahabharata Oracle is one such oracle deck presented from the ancient traditions of India. Possibly more ancient than the European traditions, India has a long-storied history of spiritual exploration and development. So, from the tradition that brought us yoga, chakras, and karma, comes this insightful spiritual deck.

Like many oracle decks, here you will find many familiar archetypes, presented with a touch of Indian wisdom.

About the author from Amazon:

As a Yoga/Fitness instructor, visual and performing artist, chef and psychic medium, Gita has found inspiration from her extensive travel and residencies on three continents. Growing up in India created a spiritual base which served as a springboard for learning esoterism and the occult. Her exposure to diverse cultures inculcated several interests which she expresses in many ways. She resides in the United States of America.

www.Gitarash.com

Some of the images remind me more of Norse gods or DC Comics superheroes and less like genuine Indian subcontinental art, which is a bit of a disappointment. With some exceptions, the women are uniformly slim, young and beautiful and the men are uniformly beefy, overblown warrior-types (move over Arnold!). I wish the illustrations looked more like something right out of the Bhagavad-Gita with the grace and balance of ancient Indian styles.

The cards are sturdy but not so stiff they cannot be easily shuffled. The colors are vivid and the images are rich in detail. The human images depict a wide range of diversity, a balance of male and female, and characters that could be from many places in the world: the Asian Steppes, the Indian subcontinent, southeast Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East.

Having the cards numbered make for a quick look-up for meanings and one does not have to slog through arbitrary groupings trying to figure out where you card is listed. In using the cards, the oracle did not disappoint, offering insightful, useful and encouraging advice. All in all, a deck worthy to add to one's card collection.

GAMING GUIDE:

ATOMOS

BY NIXIE VALE

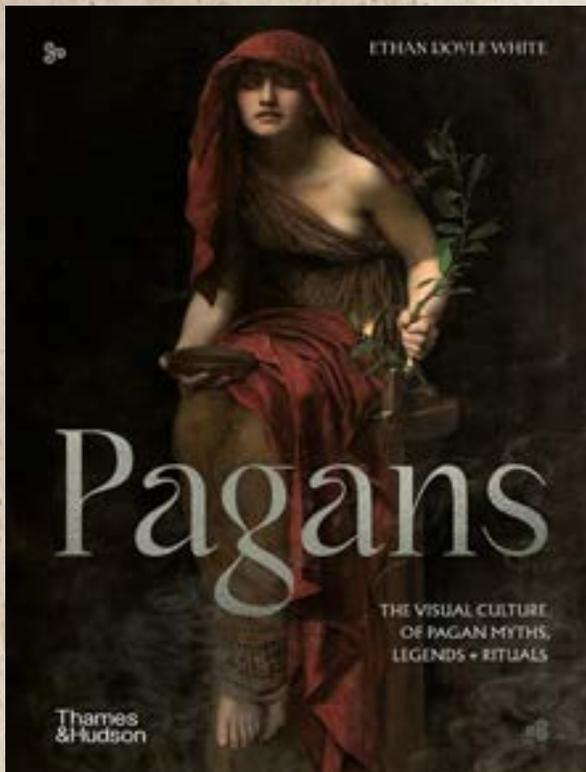
Atomos is one of the creatures that can be summoned in the final fantasy series, he also appears as a boss as well. Atomos appears as a large thing with an enormous mouth that sucks in everything in its path. In Final Fantasy 12 Atomos appears as an airship alongside the Ifrit, the Shiva and the Alexander. In Final Fantasy 13 Atomos is a deity-like being that is tasked by its creator to dig subterranean tunnels.

Researching the entomology of Atomos was like trying to see through mud, but I found something that could potentially make some sense. Atomos is the Greek word for 'invisible' and is the root of the word atom. When Atomos attacks everything is sucked into its mouth, and it's supposed that while inside its mouth everything is broken down to its atomic level, or it is shrunk down to the size of an atom.



Image from:
www.finalfantasygallery.weebly.com/ixsummons.html

BOOK SPOTLIGHT



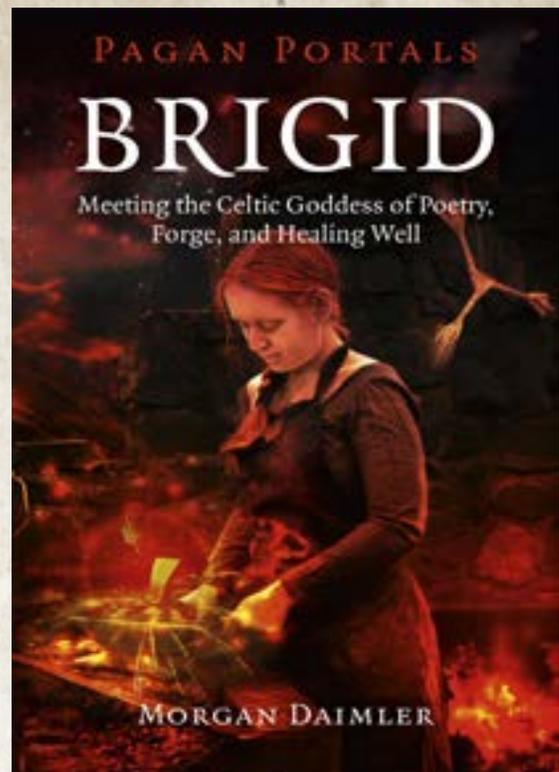
Pagans

By Ethan Doyle White

A clear, concise and detailed historical analysis of the eclectic and beautiful visual and material culture of paganism.

The book begins with an introduction that clarifies what we mean by 'pagan'. It traces the pre-Christian origins of paganism, the development of the different aspects of pagan belief over centuries and how materials from the pre-Christian religions of Europe, North Africa and West Asia are built into the practices of today's Pagans. The book is then organized into three broad sections - Ancient Ways, Ritual and Community - each containing three themed chapters. For each of the nine themed chapters, illustrated narrative text is interspersed with double-page presentations of the key figures, key stories and key iconography relevant to that theme. Paintings and artefacts are examined in detail, identifying and explaining the symbolism and the stories depicted in each. As the book progresses, readers will not only come to understand the many symbols that define pagan religions and practices, but will also discover the beliefs and philosophies of pagans from around the world, from polytheism to pantheism and from magic and ritual to ideas about the afterlife.

Thames and Hudson Ltd, Language: English, Hard cover, 256 pages



Pagan Portals: Brigid

By Morgan Daimler

Pagan Portals - Brigid is a basic introduction to the Goddess Brigid focusing on her history and myth as well as her modern devotion and worship.

Primarily looking at the Irish Goddess but including a discussion of her Pan-Celtic appearances, particularly in Scotland. Her different appearances in mythology are discussed along with the conflation of the pagan Goddess with Catholic saint.

Modern methods for neopagans to connect to and honor this popular Goddess include offerings and meditation, and personal anecdotes from the author's experiences are included as well.

Morgan Daimler teaches classes and writes about Irish myth and magical practices, fairies, and related subjects. Morgan's writing has appeared in a variety of magazines including Pagan Dawn and Witches & Pagans, and anthologies including Naming the Goddess and Harp, Club, & Cauldron. Morgan is also the author of a variety of fiction books, and non-fiction through Moon Books including bestsellers Fairy Witchcraft, Pagan Portals: The Morrigan, Pagan Portals: Brigid, and Fairies: A Guide to the Celtic Fair Folk.

Moon Books, Language: English, Paperback, 112 pages

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