

ASTRO REPORT

The Rite of the Sacred Maiden

Imbolc February 2, 2012

observed January 27

Sun at 6° Aquarius

Moon in Pisces, waxing.

The next **Full Moon** will be Tuesday 2/7, at 18° Leo (the Budding Moon)

Mercury at 1° Aquarius

Venus at 16° Pisces

Mars at 23° Virgo, retrograde

Jupiter at 2° Taurus

Saturn at 29° Libra, in shadow, turns retrograde 2/8

Uranus at 1° Aries, direct, in shadow until April 2012

Neptune at 29° Aquarius, direct, in shadow until March 2012

Pluto at 8° Capricorn



Welcome to the midpoint between Winter and Spring, also known as Imbolc, the time of quickening, the time when the calves and lambs start being born, when you can see the first buds on the trees.

It's also the time when the lunar

new year is celebrated. Happy Chinese New Year and the most auspicious year of the Water Dragon!

Dragons have strong, independent personalities and would prefer to lead instead of follow.

The Sun and Mercury in Aquarius invite us to look for truth—our internal truth and the truth of what we observe around us. Aquarius brings with it the audacity to think outside of the box—sometimes so far outside the box that we can't even see the box! Our thinking becomes more progressive and objective. Our thought patterns and communications are spontaneous, somewhat fragmented, and liberal. This is a time when inventive thinking is at a peak.

Aquarius is the sign of the friend, making the next four weeks good for socializing with your best friends and for networking with your civic organizations. To increase your circle of friends, spend some time with someone you'd like to know better before the Full Moon on February 7 or invite them to join your group.

If there's a friendship that's no longer working for you, that you'd like to release, wait until after the Full Moon to end it gracefully and with kindness.

Mars is in Virgo for this retrograde. This sign impacts our experiences with this transit. If there was ever a sign that felt it could figure everything out and set it into perfect order, that would be Virgo. This is a set-up for extreme frustration. Life is messy, yet the Mars in Virgo desire is to find a way to make it whole and beautiful, even in its chaos. What a lovely opportunity to love life as it is, even if it isn't perfect!

On the Full Moon, Mercury joins with the Sun exactly. When a planet conjoins the Sun, it is being infused with solar light. This solar light is all about the gifts of Aquarius. In Aquarius, Mercury displays an eagerness to invent, share vision, and question assumptions.

Your Astro reporter: Raven of the Redwoods, when not preparing and delivering astro reports for her coven, rocks her other life as a coach, inspiring and supporting juicy transformation in women. She works with Amazons, mothers, queens and crones, with a special emphasis on women in the third third of life. Raven says: "Change can be hard. Change is inevitable. I make it easier."

You can read about Raven's work at MagnoliasWest.com—where she is Chief Inspiration Officer—or start a conversation with her at Sue@MagnoliasWest.com. Raven also writes a gratitude blog which you can find at MagnoliasWest.com/MorningGratitudes

