

Connecting the Pagan communities through news, voice, and fellowship!



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The Octarine Spring Involvement by Ryan James Lloyd

So, let's do this.
The Octarine Spring.
This notion has grown from its original temporary intent into a more enduring construct and concept.
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Neptune in Aries: 2025 - 2039 by Lilliana Blackstar

In astrology, Neptune represents dreams, intuition, and the subconscious, symbolizing the realms of imagination, spirituality, and illusion. Neptune governs our capacity for empathy, creativity, and connection to the divine or mystical aspects of life. This planet encourages us to transcend the material world and explore our inner landscapes, often inspiring artistic expression and spiritual growth. However, Neptune's influence can also lead to confusion, deception, and escapism if not grounded in reality. The lessons of Neptune involve learning to balance our dreams and ideals with practical considerations, embracing our intuition and creativity while remaining mindful of potential illusions and the need for clarity and discernment in our perceptions. Page 11

LOS ANGELES TIMES CALIFORNIA * B2 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006 SG

BELIEFS

Wiccans Want Their Star on Vets' Graves

'They see us

as evil,

which is

ridiculous.'

archpriest

The VA allows use of 38 other emblems of faith. but not the pentacle. After nearly 10 years of efforts, lawsuit takes the issue to federal court.

By Louis Sahagun

Pete Pathfinder Davis has been fighting for nearly a decade to have the emblem of his faith engraved on the headstones of veterans buried in federal cem-

But the application he filed in 1997 with the Department of Vet-erans Affairs for use of the pentacle — a five-pointed star sur-rounded by a circle

is still pending.

Davis and other

Wiccans, who some describe themselves as pagans or witches, say it is time for the VA to recognize their religion, which wornature and employs the practice of "magick.

The battle over markers gained a higher profile recently with a dispute over a Wiccan service-

man's headstone in Nevada and a lawsuit filed Sept. 29 on behalf of two churches and three Wic-cans. The federal suit seeks to compel the VA to provide Wic-cans the same recognition it affords 38 other groups, including atheists, who can have symbols of their beliefs sandblasted onto

The lawsuit filed in Washington, D.C., by the American Civil Liberties Union against Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson and the VA's burial and memorial unit says that, by one survey, there are 1,800 Wiccans in the military.

The military has long em-

braced religious diversity, as long as a practice does not interfere with duties or harm others. Wicca is mentioned in military chaplains' manuals, and the De-partment of Defense for decades has allowed soldiers to list Wicca on their dog tags.

Denying Wiccans the long-held tradition of professing faith on grave markers "greatly bur-dens the free exercise of religion of veterans and their families." according to the lawsuit.

"All those who served and died for their country should be treated with the same dignity and respect," said Daniel Mach, an ACLU attorney. "And the government should not be in the business of deciding which veterans' faiths get honored."

spokes-VA woman Jo Schuda was unable to fully explain the delays, which she said may have been caused by VA regulation changes and the Wiccan religion's lack of a national headquarters.

Pete Pathfinder "There are a lot Davis, Wiccan of mysteries within bureaucracies, and maybe this is one of them," she said. "The as-yet unan-swerable might come out in the

course of litigation."
The symbols allowed by the

VA include various styles of Christian crosses, the Jewish

Star of David and emblems for Buddhism, Islam and the Native American Church of North America, which uses the hallucinogenic peyote plant in its ritu-als. Atheists' symbol is a basic atomic structure.

In the Wiccan pentacle, the circle symbolizes eternity, and the five points of the star represent earth, air, fire, water and the unifying spirit. Modern Wicca is a reconstruction of ancient pa-



TIRED OF DELAYS: Archpriest Pete Pathfinder Davis with a statue of Hecate in an outdoor chapel in Washington; he applied in 1997 for permission to use the pentacle on headstones.

gan religions that existed in Europe. It bows to many gods and goddesses, celebrates solar and lunar cycles and stresses the avoidance of harm to others.

The name Wicca in Old English meant witch, and the religion relies on witchcraft, called magick, in hopes of influencing affairs and natural events. Numbers are elusive, be-cause there is no central Wiccan church, but scholars estimate there are 134,000 self-identified

Wiccans in the United States. Plaintiffs in the ACLU suit include Patricia Darlene Howell Corneilson, mother of Army Pfc. James A. Price, who was killed in action in Iraq on Sept. 18, 2004; Kathleen Egbert, the surviving daughter of World War II Army veteran Abraham Kooiman, who was interred in Arlington National Cemetery in May 2003; and retired disabled Navy veteran Scott Stearns, who served in the Persian Gulf War and was honorably discharged in 1997.

Egbert, 59, a management program analyst with the Department of Homeland Security and Laurel, Md., resident, reflected on the pending applica-tion with the VA. "Everyone is saying it's too bad and a shame that when my mother died this year, we buried her next to my fa ther, and this problem was still not resolved," she said.

The other plaintiffs are Correllian Nativist Church International Inc., in Albany, N.Y., and the Aquarian Tabernacle the Aquarian Tabernacle Church in Index, Wash., which is led by Wiccan Archpriest Davis.
Of particular concern to the

plaintiffs was the VA's rapid processing of at least six similar headstone applications filed over the last nine years by other faiths, including the Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii, a Shinto sect, and the Buddhist group Soka Gakkai International USA.

"The VA doesn't perceive those groups as evil, just odd," said Davis, whose 22-year-old son recently returned from Navy medic duty in Iraq. "They see us as evil, which is ridiculous. Our religious services are just as boring as any other religion's.

The VA hasn't spelled out its objections, but Wiccans theorize

that VA officials are confusing Wicca with Satanism. Wiccans are neither Satanists nor devil worshipers and they "strenu-ously reject the forces of evil," according to the lawsuit. Although Satanism also uses a five-point-

ed star, it points down, not up.

The Wiccan case is being closely watched by supportive groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Anyone who serves their country honorably in uniform should have their religious sym-bol on their headstone, regardless of their religion," said VFW spokesman Joe Davis.

In a separate case, Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn determined in September that he had the discretion to honor a request by Roberta Stewart to have a pentacle placed on her husband's plaque at the State Veterans Memorial Wall in Fernley, east of Reno.

Her husband, Army National Guard Sgt. Patrick Stewart, was killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 25

Stewart had unsuccessfully asked the VA for the pentacle.

Signs of Faith

belief symbols the Department of Veterans Affairs allows on headstones in federal cemeteries. Wiccans are urging the VA to permit use of their symbol.

Wicca (proposed)



(Angel Moroni)



Native American Church of North America



Atheist



United Moravian Church



zumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii (Shinto)



Soka Gakkai USA (Buddhist)





Source: Department of V

"It's a sad example of the government giving preference to many religions and ignoring this one," said Barry Lynn, spokes-man for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, which is representing Stewart in her ongoing fight with the VA. "That's an indefensible constitu-

tional position." Not surprisingly, the case has become a cause celebre for Wic-cans and pagans nationwide.

"The founding fathers set up the country to avoid favoring any denomination," said Diana Paxon, an ordained pagan priestess in Berkeley. "But as long as we keep having wars, people of all faiths will keep dying in them, and they are going to need head-

louis.sahagun.latimes.com

Today there are 78.

We have come far with help from many brave people who persevered to give us the many blessings we enjoy today!





Festivals in 2025!



April

SPRING MYSTERIES FESTIVAL-Seattle, Washington https://www.springmysteries.com/ April 17-20 2025 TRILLIUM SPRING GATHERING - Cross Junction, Virginia https://trilliumgatheringadf.org/ April -20, 2025 KITHAKA DUN - Memphis, Tennessee - https://www.firstpolestari.com/kithaka-dun-2025 TBA DAUGHTERS OF DIANA GATHERING - San Bernardino, California

http://www.daughtersofdianagathering.org/ April 25-27, 2025

THE BELTANE – Darlington, Maryland https://www.turtlehilleventco.com/the-beltane.html April 30-May 4, 2025

BROTHERHOOD BY THE BOG - Virginia Beach, Virginia

https://www.olympuscampgroundresort.com/brotherhood-by-the-bog-main/ TBA

FLORIDA PAGAN GATHERING - Silver Springs, Florida http://www.flapagan.org/ TBA

May

FERTILE GROUND GATHERING - Triangle, Virginia https://www.fertilegroundgathering.com/ May 1-4, 2025 BELTANE FESTIVAL - Barneveld, Wisconsin https://circlesanctuary.org/beltane/ May 2-4, 2025

MAGICAL SPACES - Kansas City, Kansas https://www.kchsa.com/ May 9-11, 2025

ELF FEST – Bedford, Indi<mark>ana <u>https://elvinhome.org/elf-fest/</u> May 21–25, 2025</mark>

RITES OF SPRING – Western Massachusetts http://www.earthspirit.com/events/rites-of-spring-46 May 21–26, 2025

PAGAN UNITY FESTIVAL (PUF) – Toone, Tennessee https://www.paganunityfest.org/home May 29-June 1, 2025
MOONDANCE – Auburn, Alabama https://www.faeriefaith.net/Moondance.shtml Thursday through Monday
Memorial Day Weekend

BELTAINE AT FOUR QUARTERS - Artemas, Pennsylvania https://4qf.org/beltaine TBA

WELLSPRING GATHERING - Madison, Ohio http://stonecreed.org/festivals/the-wellspring-gathering-2024/
TBA

Graduating Class of 2025



Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary, a Wiccan legal degreegranting institution sponsored by the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, is proud to announce the graduating class of 2025.

These students have earned associate degrees:

Sammy Conde, Mary Hines, James M. Logue Sr., Castle Silverstar, and Ryan Whelpley.

These students have earned bachelor's degrees:

Arielle Jones, Alan Little, Kristi Jill McAfee, Petras Maygar, Debra Morgan, Christina Parke, and Mattielee Silverstar.

A graduation ceremony was held by Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary on March 28, 2025, in their online platform Microsoft Teams. We congratulate the graduates on their outstanding accomplishments and look forward to their continued growth on their spiritual path.

Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary is dedicated to serving those who seek to learn the Craft of the Wise, and minister in the ways of the Old Gods. Woolston-Steen is devoted to bringing traditional, formal magical training, blended with modern day concepts that support a practitioner ministering in today's multi-cultural world. With over 100 graduates, Woolston-Steen is the first state-recognized Wiccan Seminary to grant degrees and certifications in Wiccan Ministry by Washington State's Higher Education Coordinator Board.







History of The May Pole



By Rt. Rev. Kara D. Williams From September 1, 2021

The May Pole, once a mainstay of Wiccan celebrations at Beltane has become controversial in the United States community as people reassess gender roles and sexuality. For many groups, it has simply been easier to discontinue the use of the May Pole, also called a summer pole or summer tree, than to unwind its history and purpose and consider how it fits as Wicca develops and grows. Unwinding its history is the first step in this process. Folklore and traditions commonly have an influence on religious practices (James 1962), and it behooves Wiccans to understand how that plays out in our own religion.

The May Pole ritual as handed down by Gardnerian Wicca is performed in a similar fashion to public May Pole dances from the late 1800's. At the time Wicca was being developed, the May Pole dance was beginning to fade and had fallen out of use in many places by WW II (Parry 1986) but was fondly remembered as a children's dance from the turn of the century. It would be revived in the early 1960's. Wicca added a gendered aspect to the dance with women dancing in one direction and men in the other and a colored aspect to the ribbons reflecting the projective and receptive energies being woven along with the ribbons. The public dance with a long history that was interwoven with a freer sexuality, was structured and became what most Wiccans know today.

There is speculation as to where the concept of dancing around a tall pole (May Pole) celebration originated. India's spring festival of Indradhvaja involves a pole and dancing has some of the same sacred sexual aspects (Anderson 1985). The ancient Roman festival of Floralia also involves the first of May and flowers and dancing, but I have yet to find documentation that supports the use of poles in that celebration. The Floralia Celebration seems much more connected to the British Isles since Rome ruled there. However, other aspects of the Indrahvaja spring festival do seem related to the Floralia celebration, so it is quite possible that there is a connection. The heiros gamos aspect of May Day represented as the May Queen and May King, moved from India across the Mediterranean to continental Europe and the British Isles (Bray 1999). So, I do not rule out the idea that the Indra Pole also migrated from there.

The earliest reference to a May Pole in England is from the reign of King John (1167-1216) and simply mentions a charter was granted to erect one in preparation for the May Day celebration (Parry 1986). The earliest visual image of a May Pole that Parry found was from 1499 in a Book of Hours. There is a description from 1751 of a celebration held at Ranelagh that demonstrates that it was the other activities that got a bit wild. Masked guests, and the construction of green bowers for lovers, were much more the focus than the dancing around the base of the pole. The masked dancers in this description were all male! The written description of the engraving describes the pole as being garlanded, but the engraving shows short ribbons hanging from the top. There is controversy of how accurate the drawing was of the event due to the highly costumed nature of the guests that lends itself to fantasy and that the artist is Italian and was depicting what this might look like in Italy (Alford 1943). A letter that is believed

to be describing the engraving was written by Walpole to his friend Horace Mann and states that 2,000 people attended this May Day celebration! (Alford 1943) Obviously, with that many people the type of gendered pairing amongst dancers known in Wicca would be difficult and the bowers most necessary.

With the rise of Protestantism, the May Pole dance had fallen out of favor and many poles while still standing went unused. In 1644 after a long campaign by the Puritans May Poles were outlawed and ordered to be taken down and destroyed due to the wild and licentious activities that took place at those celebrations (Parry 1986). According to Nichols, the Puritans had long campaigned against the May Day celebrations due to the licentious nature of the celebration (https://www.sacred-texts.com/bos/bos194.htm). The May Pole dance was revived by Professor John Ruskin in 1889 (https://www.efdss.org/learning/resources/beginners-guides/37-english-folk-dance/2191-maypole). Though to be fair it had never completely died out (Parry 1986). It caught on with his student teachers and spread from there. This is important since many of the magical and occult communities at that time were developing the ideas and celebrations that Gerald Gardner would incorporate into Wicca.

While May Poles occurred all over Europe, the focus here is on the history of what was happening in England as that was Gerald Gardner's greatest influence. Much of what is adopted into Wicca is not reflective of the traditions on the continent. However, the continent did influence the use of ribbons! In the late 1880's ribbon dances were imported from Italy and became all the rage (Parry 1986). The Victorian school teachers added dancing with the ribbons to the May Pole dance and Wicca ends up with the tradition of ribbons. Poles during this time were often painted with barber shop spirals and decorated with streamers and garlands. Most of them were too tall for ribbon dances (Parry 1986).

Stevens in the article "The May Pole in Ireland" states that May Poles were brought from a Dutch sailing boat and that he found no reference to ribbons being used prior to 1900 in Ireland. This supports the other findings that ribbons are a late addition to the May Pole celebration.

Parry found that dances such as "Sallinger's Round" and "Gathering Peascods," common English folk dances, were often danced around the May Pole prior to the ribbons being added and the idea of weaving a pattern. These dances are done in circles and do not require partners so can be done with any combination of genders and ages.

While there is no doubt that sexuality and fertility were a part of these celebrations, they were not originally tied to the structured dance that we see today. Historians agree (Sachs 1937) that the original poles were living trees and that dancing around the tree was both attached to virginity in some places and not in others. The sex was taken off into the green bowers created around the area of celebration and was not ritualized as might be done today in Wiccan celebrations. "Greenwood Marriages" were how people referred to the night's activities that might well result in a child (Farrar 1984). The community rules on behavior were relaxed and the celebrations from all accounts were wild and exuberant, but there is certainly evidence as seen in the engraving mentioned above that the dancing could also be only of one gender. What is positive is that there is not one way that a May Pole dance must be done! This gives modern practitioners wide latitude in how to incorporate a May Pole into their celebrations.

In the US, many Wiccans are considering other ways of presenting this sacred sexual celebration that incorporates today's evolved understanding of both the history and the energetics of such a ritual. There can be a place for all genders at this celebration. Preserving the incredibly old sacred sexual rituals in a religion that celebrates fertility and sexual choice seems worth doing.

Rt. Reverend Kara D. Williams is a 3rd degree priestess in the WISE Tradition of Wicca and the dean of Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary.

From the Desk of: <u>Delphi Koch</u>, <u>Editor</u>



We're accepting submissions for art, poems, recipes, and more. Share your voice with us! Visit www.panegyria.com/submissions to submit your creativity. Let's connect and weave a web of shared creations together!







- Documents will be accepted in the form of .doc, .docx, .odt, .rtf, .txt, .pdf, .jpg, .gif, and .png. Videos and multimedia should be hosted on a third party website (such as youtube) and a link to the video sent.
- Works should honor all religions or belief systems, no criticism direct, implied or intentional. Scholarly
 discussion is welcome within the context of the article, so long as the discussion is constructive and germane to
 the article.
- Works do not have to be themed for each Sabbat, but we welcome and encourage articles directly related to the Sabbats.



April

BIRTHSTONE:

Diamond



A symbol of everlasting love, was once thought to bring courage.

Flower:

Daisy



The daisy has long represented innocence, purity, and true love.

Aries

March 21 thru April 19



Symbol: The Ram

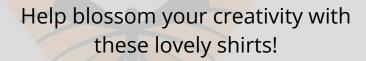
Taurus

April 20 thru May 20



Symbol: The Bull

Moonstone Gifts





Increase Your Manifestation

Contains:

Exclusive Design Chakra Tapestry Yellow color therapy Glasses

with matching protective pouch

Spell Candles, box of 20

Spell Candle Holder

Incense Holder

Chakra Incense

Nail Polish

Zodiac Pentacle

3 inch Apollo Sticker

3 inch Demeter Sticker

Affirmation Marker with

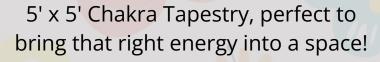
magnetic eraser cap

Crystals/Stones with info card

Enjoy the magical tools prepared for you in your beautiful Sacral Chakra Box Set.











The Octarine Spring Involvement

From the Panegyria Archives by Ryan James Lloyd

So, let's do this.
The Octarine Spring.

This notion has grown from its original temporary intent into a more enduring construct and concept.

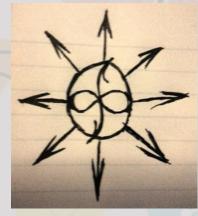
As our world, at least here in the US and other places is coming rather unhinged, I think we need to revisit this notion of grassroots magickal activism and Rule .303- that being if you have the means, you have the responsibility to act, and do what you can, for as long as you are able.

We, who have some competence at Magick, the ability to reach out and perhaps alter and influence the flow of reality, to perhaps protect and defend, to lend luck and grace, to change hearts and minds, to Hinder those who would bring peril and strife:

I believe we have the responsibility to do so. To try to bring Change to that which needs changing, To Preserve that which needs to endure, to Protect those in harm's way, to Empower those fighting the good fight, and to set our Will against those who seek to oppress and secure dominion over plain ol' decent people seeking to live as best they can.

Magickal activism, Magickal Action- We can do it for ourselves. I think we must use these skills in ways that align with our ability and nature, to try to aid our communities, and the world as we are able. We protect, and bless, and bestow luck, and twist probability, manifest things, and hinder the Bad for ourselves and our own all the time. I think it's time to work more broadly for our communities and the world that is under our eyes. That's what the Cunning Folk always did, back in the day. They helped them as needed. And hindered them as needed to knock it off and quit botherin' folk.

We have a skill and power and knowledge, however often subtle, to maybe make a difference beyond what mere hands can usually accomplish.



Some counsel for large-scale workings for large-scale change- I cannot say whether or not those are effective. Always hard to say. What IS effective is a practitioner who knows their craft, throwing down on the world they Know and walk. We know this. We live it. The sigil, acting as an embodiment of the notion, a talisman, a banner, a conjoining IDEA- Makes everyone doing their grassroots thing, into a large-scale long-term Work, memetic current style. Best of both worlds.

Using this sigil, in conjunction with whatever and however you DO (be that sigilcraft, ritual work, artificing, or just hucking magick at stuff) should help with mutual empowerment, and even as a Talisman, to confer what blessings may be inherent in the thing to whoever carries it. (For sigils- do your sigil for whatever, and tag it somewhere on the page. For ritual- drop a copy on your altar or carve it on your candle, or however. For Talisman- well, just make a talisman for whatever and slap this on there, stick it in your pocket, throw it on a t-shirt may help some. It needn't be the centerpiece of anything, but you can make it so if you wish.) And even if you don't use the construct, I hope you take up the idea, and do what you may.

Stand, and let your Will be felt in the world.

May we bring a brighter day.

Ryan James Lloyd is a Thirtysomething writer, Storyteller, creative problem solver, artist, artificer, weaponsmith, and Wizard. He's escaped the "normal" world to go on the road with the love of his life, the amazingly talented singer/songwriter S.J. Tucker (www.sjtucker.com). You can find more of his work on his blog, The Storyteller Way.

Beltane Traditions



Beltane

The History and Modern Revival

(Filmed at the Largest Beltane

Festival in the World)



How the Ancients
Celebrated Beltane



May Day Maypole

<u>Craft DIY and Beltane Altar Tour</u> <u>- Magical Crafting for Beltane</u>







Beltane Celtic background
music for fire dance Beltane
rituals - May day Walpurgis
night Wiccan

Neptune in Aries: 2025-2039

by Lilliana Blackstar



Neptune entered the Tropical Zodiac sign of Aries on March 30, 2025. There are big shifts coming into the collective subconscious with this long transit, but first, let's explore the archetype of Neptune.

In astrology, Neptune represents dreams, intuition, and the subconscious, symbolizing the realms of imagination, spirituality, and illusion. Neptune governs our capacity for empathy, creativity, and connection to the divine or mystical aspects of life. This planet encourages us to transcend the material world and explore our inner landscapes, often inspiring artistic expression and spiritual growth. However, Neptune's influence can also lead to confusion, deception, and escapism if not grounded in reality. The lessons of Neptune involve learning to balance our dreams and ideals with practical considerations, embracing our intuition and creativity while remaining mindful of potential illusions and the need for clarity and discernment in our perceptions.

Neptune Keywords: Dreams, Intuition, Spirituality, Illusion, Creativity, Compassion, Mysticism, Escapism, Imagination, Dissolution.



The Hanged Man

The Major Arcana Card that corresponds with Neptune is The Hanged Man. The Hanged Man tarot card symbolizes surrender, perspective, and the power of letting go. Depicting a figure suspended upside down, this card suggests a voluntary pause or sacrifice to gain a new outlook or deeper insight. It teaches us the importance of patience, surrendering control, and viewing situations from different angles to achieve enlightenment. Corresponding with the planet Neptune, The Hanged Man emphasizes themes of spirituality, intuition, and the dissolution of boundaries. Neptune's influence enhances the

card's message of embracing the unknown and trusting in the flow of life. The lessons of The Hanged Man encourage us to release our rigid expectations, open ourselves to new perspectives, and find wisdom in stillness and contemplation, ultimately leading to greater spiritual awareness and personal transformation.

Neptune in Aries: 2025 - 2039

In 2025, Neptune will dance between Pisces and Aries, concluding its journey through Pisces, which began in 2011.

- Neptune will first enter Aries on March 30, 2025.
- Neptune in Aries will begin to retrograde on July 4, 2025.
- Neptune retrograde will return to Pisces on October 22, 2025.
- Neptune in Pisces will end its retrograde on December 10, 2025.
- Neptune will return to Aries on January 26, 2026.

Neptune has influence over collective ideologies and beliefs, but it operates from a rather subtle or unseen realm, dealing with our fears, dreams, imagination, and subconscious realms. From the subconscious and spiritual Neptunian experiences we have, we develop beliefs and ideas about our reality. Each person has their own Relative Truth that is constantly in flux, developing and changing based on these deeper spiritual and subconscious experiences that we have. Neptune rules over dreams, fears, delusions, spirituality, and religionall connected to a deep emotional tide that drives us to seek out higher meaning.

When Neptune moves through the sign of Aries we will have a collective shift in our subconscious and spiritual realities, which will be more focused on the individualistic and self-focused drive of the Cardinal Fire Sign.

Aries

Aries represents boldness, initiative, and individuality. Ruled by Mars, the planet of action and drive, Aries is known for its dynamic energy, courage, and desire to forge new paths. This fire sign thrives on independence, spontaneity, and competition, often acting as a trailblazer in various aspects of life. However, Aries also faces lessons in

patience, cooperation, and follow-through, as its impulsive nature can sometimes lead to hasty decisions or unfinished projects. The sign teaches the importance of balancing personal ambition with consideration for others, embracing both fearless action and thoughtful persistence. Aries encourages individuals to cultivate self-confidence, take risks, and embrace life with enthusiasm while learning to temper impulsiveness with wisdom.

Mars

Aries is ruled by the planet Mars, and while Neptune is in this sign it will be influenced by the archetypal energies of Mars. Mars is the planet of war, defense, conflict, aggression, courage, and bravery. This means that those subconscious feelings of the planet Neptune will be infused with some Mars-like energy, and we will need to be mindful of how we manage our feelings of anger and aggression. The benefit is that Mars brings the courage and bravery to face our fears and stand up for ourselves. The transits of Mars will be deeply relevant to our Neptunian experiences over this next decade.



The Emperor

The Major Arcana card that corresponds with Aries is The Emperor.

The Emperor tarot card represents authority, structure, stability, and leadership. As a symbol of discipline and control, The Emperor embodies the power of organization, protection, and the ability to create order from chaos. Like Aries, The Emperor is a figure of confidence and decisiveness, demonstrating the importance of taking initiative and standing firmly in one's power. However, both The Emperor and Aries must learn lessons in patience, balance, and responsible leadership, avoiding dominance or impulsiveness in favor of thoughtful guidance. This card encourages individuals to take charge of their lives, set clear goals, and establish strong foundations while remembering that true leadership comes from wisdom and integrity, not just force.

Some lessons and challenges that Neptune in Aries might present:

The upcoming transit of Neptune in Aries brings themes of personal spiritual awakening, bold imagination, and the challenge of balancing idealism with action. Aries, a fiery and assertive sign, is driven by independence, courage, and a pioneering spirit, while Neptune is fluid, dreamy, and often elusive. This combination urges us as a collective society to explore new visions of identity, leadership, and activism, blending spirituality with direct action.

- Spiritual Courage: This transit calls for bravery
 in embracing intuition and personal truth,
 encouraging people to pioneer new spiritual
 and philosophical perspectives. There may be a
 call to defend your beliefs or spirituality in
 direct and literal ways, and it may bring new
 levels of commitment when you are called to be
 courageous when your beliefs are challenged or
 restricted.
- Spiritual Disillusionment: Neptune in Pisces over the past 13 years has allowed some deep romanticized fantasies to persist, but Aries is more direct and blunt. In removing the flowery illusion and being challenged to defend these beliefs, some people may experience a disillusionment, releasing their unrealistic expectations of themselves and their spiritual beliefs.
- Inspired Action: Unlike Neptune's usual passive or escapist tendencies, its presence in Aries teaches how to merge vision with initiative, bringing dreams into tangible reality. Aries inspires action, and we have our Neptunian dreams fueling our initiative. How can we act to bring our dreams into reality?
- Revolutionary Creativity: This period may foster new artistic and cultural movements that blend innovation with deep, mystical insights. Neptune is the root and core of our imagination, and here in the fiery sign of Aries, this Neptunian energy gives people the passion and drive to amplify their creativity to new levels. Art and Revolution go hand in hand, and there will be writers and performers helping to fuel the collective desire for change and freedom.

- Balancing Control and Surrender: The
 Emperor teaches structure and discipline, while
 The Hanged Man calls for letting go and trusting
 the process. This combination suggests that
 sometimes the best way to lead is by stepping
 back and allowing things to unfold, or having
 the patience to wait for the best time to act,
 depending on the intuition to guide us.
- Shifting Perspectives on Authority: There may be a need to reevaluate how power and control are being used. Leadership can come from wisdom and understanding rather than force or rigidity. Systems of Power will fight hard to maintain their control while opposing forces fight to dismantle those systems. Historically, Neptune in Aries is a time of rebellion and revolution, as people become disillusioned with their leaders and can no longer ignore discontent that has been lingering in the subconscious for too long.
- Disillusionment with Leaders or Movements:
 Neptune can create unrealistic expectations, leading to disappointment in charismatic figures, causes, or ideologies that fail to deliver. There is something about Neptune in Aries that can tend to help some people break free of illusions or fantasies surrounding leaders and seek out new leadership that is more aligned with the collective dream.
- Impulsive Idealism: Aries' enthusiasm
 combined with Neptune's illusions may lead to
 reckless or misguided pursuits, making
 discernment essential. Mindfulness and
 thoughtful discernment will be very important
 when making big choices, as Neptune is likely
 obscuring some details or creating some illusion
 or fantasy that can make it hard to determine
 the reality of the situation.
- Identity Confusion: On a personal level, individuals may struggle with their sense of self, navigating between the desire for a strong personal identity and the dissolving effect of Neptune. Aries is the sign of personal identity, and Neptune has a way of dissolving what seems solid, revealing layers within and underneath that change our perspective. A change in perspective about who we are can be very unsettling, and a period of feeling offbalance will be expected while we adjust to our new sense of identity.

Struggling with Letting Go: If someone is too attached to control (Emperor energy), The Hanged Man energy may feel frustrating, as it suggests a period of waiting, sacrifice, or uncertainty. Neptune is a slow-moving planet that does not often bring instantaneous results. We will need the patience and foresight to remember that the impact of what we do now might not be fully realized for quite some time, and we will have to let go of the need for instant gratification.

Overall, Neptune in Aries brings a challenge of learning how to take inspired action while staying grounded in reality, challenging individuals to turn spiritual ideals into meaningful change. We will be deeply changed by this collective shift in consciousness as Neptune moves through Aries over the next 13 years, and we will likely see big changes in our collective identity.



Lilliana Blackstar is an Astrologer and a Certified Member of the Spiritual Professionals Association. You can connect with Lilliana for a personal reading or find more on their website at www.hestiasmuse.net

Spiral Scouts



SpiralScouts International

Altar Showcase

From: Pamela Maxwell Griffith
St. Petersburg FL







I found an old secretary desk similar to the one above. I did not sand or do much except wipe down the old desk. I took off all the hardware and took out the drawers. I used silver and black Rustoleum paint as it covers very well, and all you need is a plastic scraper to get the wax off the altar. The purple was just an indoor flat paint. It took a weekend to paint, dry, and assemble all the hardware. The dresser was on Facebook marketplace for \$25.00. The paint and hardware were a bit more, but for under \$50, it was so worth it!





Become an Affiliate





ATC Affiliates stand out as respected icons within the sea of local groups that you might find in any given city. We have the legal infrastructure that provides a safe haven for all of paganism to flourish, even if those pagans never interact with or know about an ATC church. If you are a spiritual leader with an active group, and you want to be a part of a legal, long-standing, unified, magical organization that serves the Lord and Lady together to make the world a better place for everyone, then you've found the right place.

Joining the ATC is a magical and legal process. We help you with the necessary paperwork to become a legally protected church. Churches receive more benefits and have more responsibilities than a regular non-profit organization. There is much paperwork, and waiting is part of the government game. The ATC does this work for you, but also represents you to the government. We will need to know who you are, what you do, and if your goals are in harmony with ours. If you come recommended by one of our affiliate leaders, you could become an affiliate in as soon as six months. If we have to get to know you, then let's get to know you, plan to come visit, and possibly have the Archpriesthood come and visit you. It's not required. Be patient and let us know if there is a reason for urgency.

If you are new to the family, please help us by providing references of people that we might know, who can vouch for your work within the community. Without a proper vouch and vetting process, it can take longer to get through the affiliation process. It's all about getting to know you and seeing if we are aligned in our energies.

At the ATC, we know there are many different types of magical families, and it is our goal to empower those who are doing the work of the Gods to be more effective in their ministry. We do everything we can to ensure that the leaders we empower through affiliation are doing their best to make the world a better place, and growing a great crop of students to keep that work going in the future.



Woolston-Steen Theological Seminary



I am so proud of my Alma Mater. I have the valid educational credentials that real-world contacts demand out of their clergy, and the magical training that the Pagan world demands out of their clergy. I have met people who say (accurately) that you don't need formal education to be a well-rounded student of Paganism and the Craft. I have also never met anyone who completed their studies who has said it wasn't worth it. I'm Very Reverend Lord Dusty Dionne - BA of Ministry



LEARN MORE



Daily Devotionals



Day	Time	Leader
Monday	6 am	Elizette Dionne
	9 am	Ashnidae Silverstar
Tuesday	6 am	Angela Mondor
	9 am	Ryan Whelpley
Wednesday	6 am	Angela Mondor
	9 am	Tourmaline Thompson
Thursday	6 am	Christina Parke
	9 am	Tourmaline Thompson
Friday	6 am	Christina Parke
	9 am	Lady Brenna Grace / Lady Lola Stardust
		Lady Lota Star addit









Southern Delta Church of Wicca



2:04 pm Friday, May 16-18 Men's Mysteries Weekend 104 Main St. Lake City, Arkansas with Amberly, Terry and Glenn



2:12 pm Friday, May 23-25 Women's Mysteries Weekend 104 Main St, Lake City, Arkansas with Amberly, Ivy and Emily



The Southern Delta Church of Wicca - ATC

The SDCW-ATC is a Church dedicated to providing fellowship with open membership to Solitaries, Groups. Offering open Esbats and Sabbats. Also offering classes for those interested in following the path to the priesthood or the Clergy.

DAILY NEWS

Word • Business • Finance • Lifestyle • Travel • Sport • Weather

Here is a wonderful article from the Arkansas Times on the history of SDCW-ATC and how far they have come with their Sacred Work within their community.



Interesting Things

Ancient Treasures on the top of Greek Mountains?



Recently in <u>The Greek Reporter</u>, Jason Konig covered the topic of the mountains of Greece in his article "Why do we ignore the ancient treasures atop Greek mountains?" It is a good read! Military installations have been built over ritual places, making excavating impossible. And who would pass up a trip to Mt. Lykaion in the Peloponnese, where the mighty Zeus was born?

The entire article can be found here.

Who were the Harpies in Ancient Greece & Rome?

An interesting article by Kitty Smith takes the reader from the ancient past to today. From history and myth to the video games of today, following the tales of Harpies.

The entire article can be found here.



