

Finding Starry Patrons

Falling in Love with the Night Sky

Introduction

- I am:
 - Hellenistic astrologer
 - tarot card reader
 - Owner of Planetary Crafts and Serpent's Stash
 - Astro-witch
 - Animist
 - Nerd (big Virgo Stellium)
- This talk:
 - Fixed star astrology
 - Spirit work
 - 'Traditional' talismans

Introduction cont'd

Quick Definitions

Fixed stars: not planets in the sky (planet - wandering stars, hence rest are 'fixed')

Constellations: 88, established by IAU, official star groupings

Asterism: sub-grouping of stars (e.g., dipper part of Ursa Major/Minor)

Heliacal - Rising and setting, like the Sun (Helios)

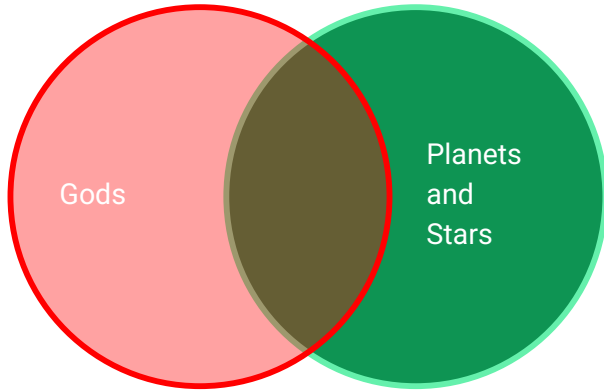
A lot of this talk can relate to planets! They're also great to work with! But.. not this talk.

Foundations

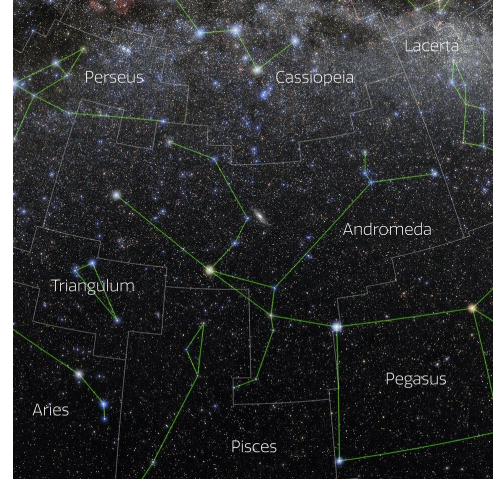
- Greco-Roman Myth
 - Also discussed: Babylonian, Egyptian
 - Other sources available in great quantity: Indian, Chinese, Middle Eastern
 - Very fun to find convergence and divergence - Pleiades
- Historic View of Working with the stars
 - Huge amounts of magic / structured information
 - Modern era - asks you to consider who wrote original sources

Foundations

- Stars vs. Gods
 - Consider the abstract nature of constellations, how stories get attached to abstract shapes



- Lifelong guides, temporary or seasonal helpers
 - Well suited for devotional or magical practice



No But Really, Why Stars?

- If you work with land spirits, sky spirits are a great next step
- The stars are available to all of us, and always have been through time
- Helps bypass overthinking via universality and distance - less innately human shaped
- Immensely rewarding <3

Three Sections

- The Finding Part
- The Learning Part (For those of us who like to stalk our new friends)
- The Patron Part

The Finding Part



Choosing vs. Being Chosen

I am a perpetual overthinker, and I have always struggled with the desire to feel chosen. Picking someone from a list because they look helpful is valid. Desiring a connection that feels fateful is valid. Doing both is valid. Consider how as the Sun pulls the Earth, the Earth also pulls the Sun - spirits pull us as we pull them.

Nerdy / Astrological

This is basically a quick primer on fixed stars and your astrological chart. We're going to ignore as much of the astrology as possible and focus on the stars themselves.

This is great for both choosing and being chosen - these are stars that are inherently entwined with your life, but you should never feel like you have to work with any or all of them. Instead, it gives you a shorter list of suitors to examine.

Heliacal Rising and Setting Stars

The star that heralded your birth, the star that holds the tools you need to follow your path.

Best method: www.astro.com

- Set up account - if you don't know exact time, it's most important that you know if it was a day or night birth - astrological day starts at dawn.
- Home - Charts and Calculations - Extended Chart Selection
- Choose yourself - Special (star icon, 2nd tab) - Brady PDF
- Page Two of PDF has the juicy details

Parans

Same timing requirements (day/night, not exact time)

Bonus of also being attached to a planet

- Rising - Youth
- Culminating - Adulthood
- Setting - Old Age
- Lower - Foundation

We're skipping what a paran is. Ask me at Q&A if you're really curious, or catch me after so I can enthusiastically explain star motion to you.

Conjunct

Not part of fixed star astrology, just nerdy.

Best when you have exact birth timing, but still useable for slower planets.

- Planetary and Angle Meanings and power levels
 - Encouraging the powerful ones, or shoring up areas you need help
- Finding Conjunct(same place) Stars
- Orbs (ie, areas of influence) - so not exact, but within a degree or two.
- Also nice: trines (signs sharing the same element, makes a triangle in a chart).

We're ignoring WHY stars that are not in the zodiac circle have zodiac locations. Also precession.

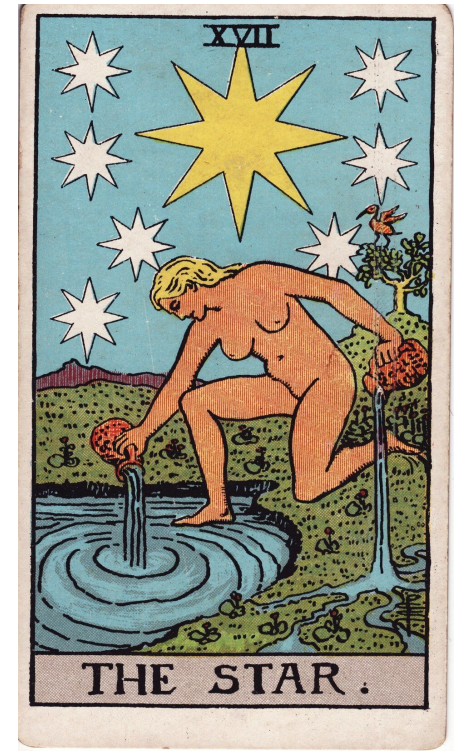
Finding Yours

- Pull up Chart - want the list of where planets are by degree
 - Optionally also note trine positions
- Pull up List of Fixed stars
- Compare Locations
- Build List

Mystical - Divination

Tarot - How cards interact with stars.

- Decans - $\frac{1}{3}$ section of each sign
 - Minor Arcana
 - 2-4: cardinal, 5-7: fixed, 8-10: mutable
 - Wands: fire, Swords: air, Pentacles: earth, Cups: water
 - Court Cards: usable but complicated, avoid
 - Major Arcana
 - Signs and Planets



This is also an interesting subprocess for finding new spirits to connect to within the Greco-Roman and Egyptian pantheons. Another tangent partially avoided.

Major Arcana Association Table

Planet	Tarot Card
Sun	The Sun
Mercury	The Magician
Venus	The Empress
Moon	The High Priestess
Mars	The Tower
Jupiter	The Wheel of Fortune
Saturn	The World

Aries	The Emperor
Taurus	The Hierophant
Gemini	The Lovers
Cancer	The Chariot
Leo	Strength
Virgo	The Hermit
Libra	Justice
Scorpio	Death
Sagittarius	Temperance
Capricorn	The Devil
Aquarius	The Star
Pisces	The Moon

Minor Arcana Association Table

Sign	Element	Suit	Energy	Numbers
Aries	Fire	Wands	Cardinal	2-3-4
Taurus	Earth	Pentacles	Fixed	5-6-7
Gemini	Air	Swords	Mutable	8-9-10
Cancer	Water	Cups	Cardinal	2-3-4
Leo	Fire	Wands	Fixed	5-6-7
Virgo	Earth	Pentacles	Mutable	8-9-10

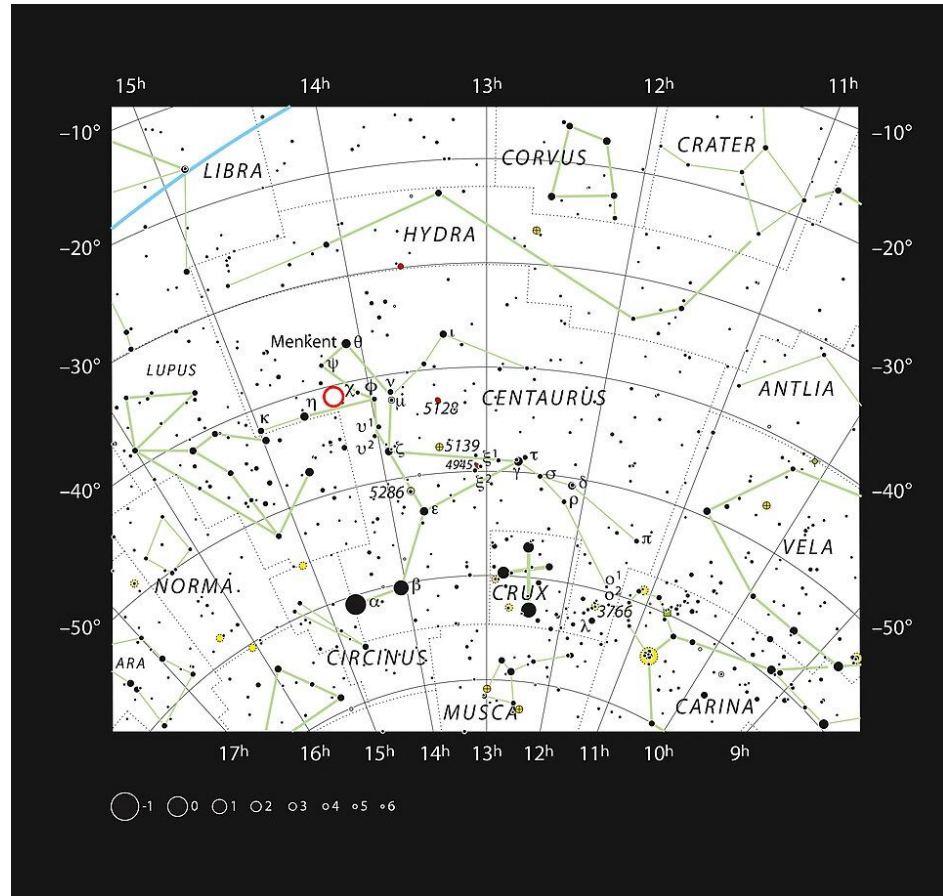
Minor Arcana Association Table

Libra	Air	Swords	Cardinal	2-3-4
Scorpio	Water	Cups	Fixed	5-6-7
Sagittarius	Fire	Wands	Mutable	8-9-10
Capricorn	Earth	Pentacles	Cardinal	2-3-4
Aquarius	Air	Swords	Fixed	5-6-7
Pisces	Water	Cups	Mutable	8-9-10

Mystical - Divination

Tarot - How cards interact with stars.

- Pendant and the Star chart.
 - Beautiful or practical copyright free star charts available as a map.
 - Or pick a particular date that is important to you and pull that night's star chart.
 - Can easily narrow down to constellation or asterism, and can repeat with 'zoomed in' chart.



No Nerdery Necessary - Personal Relationships

I.E, you don't need a graph to tell you which stars call to you.

If you have a favorite constellation, that's enough. Kinds of personal relationships I've seen:

- Night Guardians during childhood (Orion)
- That one constellation you always pick out at night
- Favorite/Relatable Myth (Medusa in the modern era)
- Bursting into tears while reading an article about the stars (Pleiades I'm looking at you)

Listen, Atlas got to rejoin his wife and family in 2016 and I am still NOT OKAY about it.

My Favorite Guided Meditation / Vision Work For Seeking

Wishes on the Lake

Preamble about Vision, other senses, and the sense of knowing.

- Making the list of wishes
 - Authentic and vulnerable
- Getting them on the lake
- Getting the feedback

Shape recognition - trawling the sky maps.

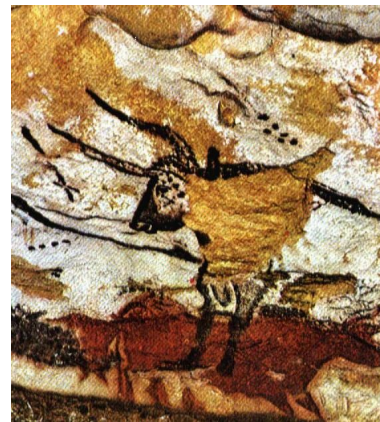
Learning About Our Potential New Friends



Myths

I always start with my home base, Greco-Roman myths.

- Looking at places like theoi.com for constellation stories
 - Gives us information about what kind of energy the constellation has, what kind of stories it tends to tell
 - Accomplishments, suffering, punishments, domains, shapes
- Star Myth book references
 - Babylonian Star-Lore, Gavin White
 - Star Lore of All Ages, William Tyler Olcott
- Going beyond
 - native stories, other cultures
 - constellation similarities and differences
 - The problems of colonialism and prehistory
 - Consideration of source: Primary, archeological, anthropological



Making Sense of Astrological Information

If not Jargon Town, why Jargon Town shaped?

We love www.astrologyking.com and the delightful information collected there.

- Planetary Rulers
 - 'This energy reminds me of these planets'
- Omens / Indications
 - Their influence on humans warns of these kinds of things, or heralds these kinds of people
- Meanings within the constellation
 - What is the general meaning of the shape
 - What is the meaning of the star's place in the shape
 - How does that energy interact with its current placement in the zodiac?

Planetary Quick Reference

Sun -	"truth, clarity"
Mercury -	"Communication, travel"
Venus -	"love, beauty, prosperity"
Moon -	"emotions, dreams, the hidden, the changeable"
Mars -	"destruction, calamity"
Jupiter -	"leadership, success"
Saturn -	"delays, consequences"

Making Sense of the Magical Information

- Talisman Information
 - Imagery and Sources
 - Agrippa, Picatrix, etc
 - Example for Alkaid, from Agrippa: “Under the tail of Ursa Major they made the image of a pensive Man, or of a Bull, or the Figure of a Calf; it availeth against incantations, and maketh him who carrieth it secure in his travels”
 - What does this tell us about how Alkaid could help us, or what form Alkaid may take?

Making Sense of the Magical Information

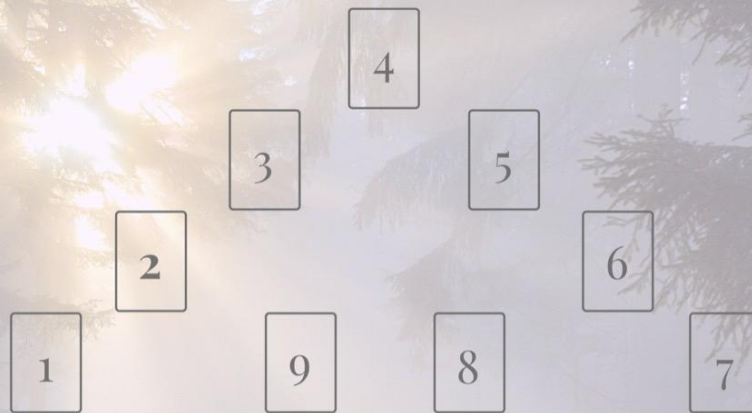
- Correspondences
 - Stones, colors, incense, plants, metals
 - Marsilio Ficino and 'the Great Chain of Being' - star to constellation to planets to daemons/spirits to human spirits to animals to plants to stones
 - Behenian Stars: <https://www.renaissanceastrology.com/hermesfixedstars.html>

Divination Double Checking

Tarot Spread: What kind of partnership will this be?

Best done while under contact - can be as easy as washing hands, lighting a candle, and determining current location before reading. You can also save this for during your first ritual.

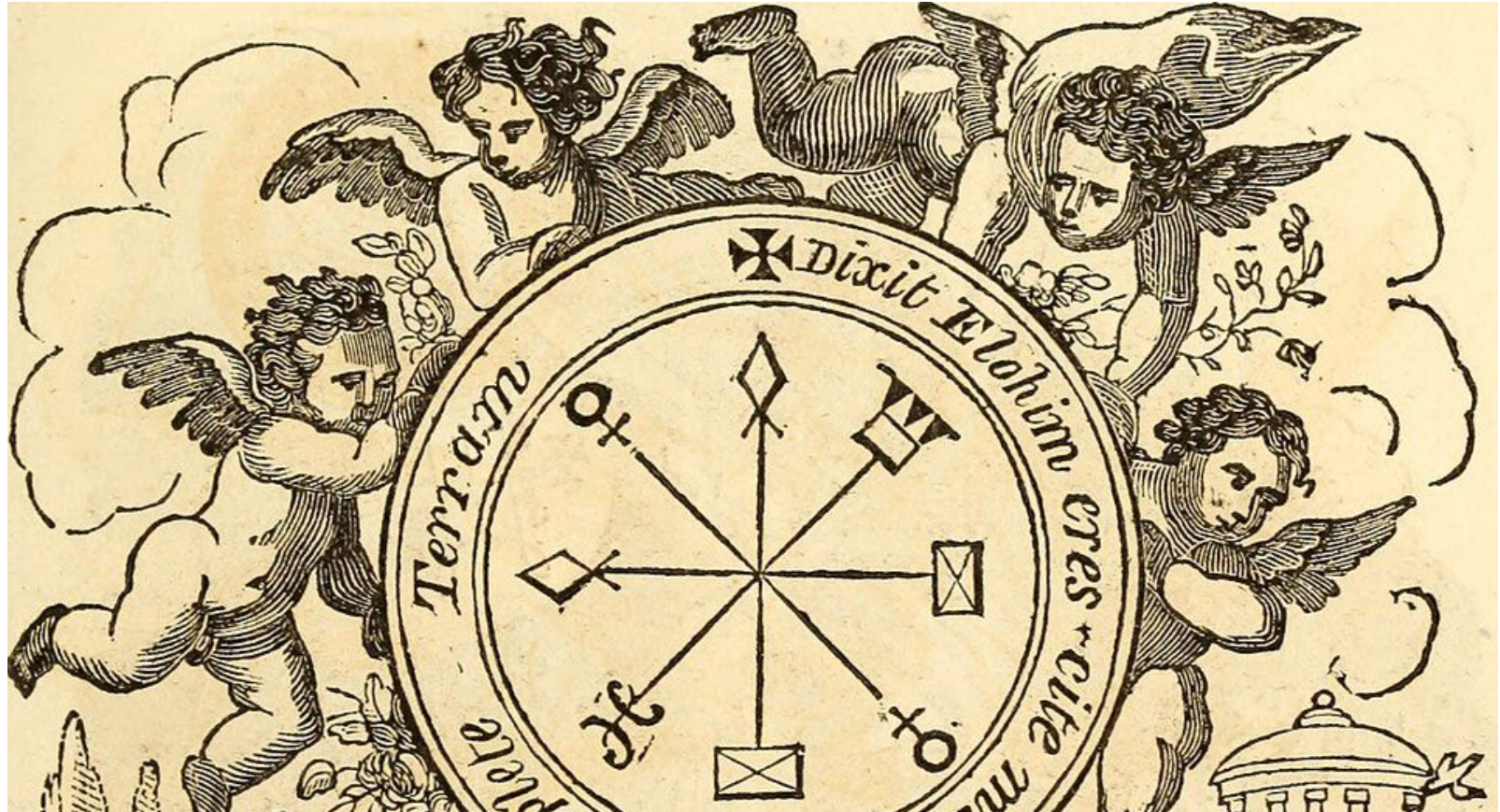
The Bridge: Tarot Spread to Begin a Celestial Relationship



1. In one card, summarize a description of your character.
2. What should I know about you?
3. What do you consider your strengths?
4. What do you consider your limits?
5. What can you teach me?

6. How do you see me, now?
7. Describe how we can best connect.
8. Describe how we can best collaborate.
9. In one card, summarize the nature of our journey together.

The Fun Part: Working with the Star as a Patron



Ritual Pre-Work

General

- Where is the star in the sky? Do they rise/set?
- Candle, incense, offerings
- Figure out structured vs. less structured for correspondences and ritual prayers

More Structured 'Requirements'

- Rise or culminating (when it crosses to 'above' or when it hits its highest point in the sky)
- Planetary Day/Hour - www.planetaryhours.net
- Invocation (Orphic poetry, ritual work)
- Vision / Divination / Meditation
- Offering

There are several ways to find the 'rise' or 'culminating' point for a star. Easiest: take the zodiac point and see when that part of the zodiac crosses 'ascendent'(rise) or 'midheaven'(culminating) for the day.

Taylor's Translation - Orphic Hymn To the Stars

WITH holy voice I call the stars on high,
Pure sacred lights and genii of the sky.
Celestial stars, the progeny of Night,
In whirling circles beaming far your light,
Refulgent rays around the heav'ns ye throw,
Eternal fires, the source of all below.
With flames significant of Fate ye shine,
And aptly rule for men a path divine.

Taylor's Translation - To the Stars (cont'd)

In seven bright zones ye run with wand'ring flames,
And heaven and earth compose your lucid frames:

With course unwearied, pure and fiery bright
Forever shining thro' the veil of Night.
Hail twinkling, joyful, ever wakeful fires!
Propitious shine on all my just desires;

These sacred rites regard with conscious rays,
And end our works devoted to your praise.

Less Structured 'Requirements'

- Just know where they are in the moment
- Modern poetry
- Star decorations
- Favorite ritual - the tea party, sharing offerings

Sample Altar

Star Candle



Moon Candle

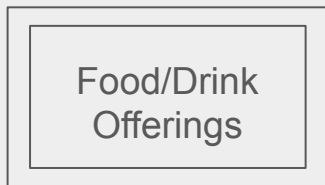


Correspondence items -
stones, plants, etc

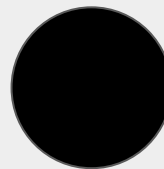
Intention
Candle



Food/Drink
Offerings



Incense/Burnt



Stellar candles placed
at edge of circle to
represent current
location.

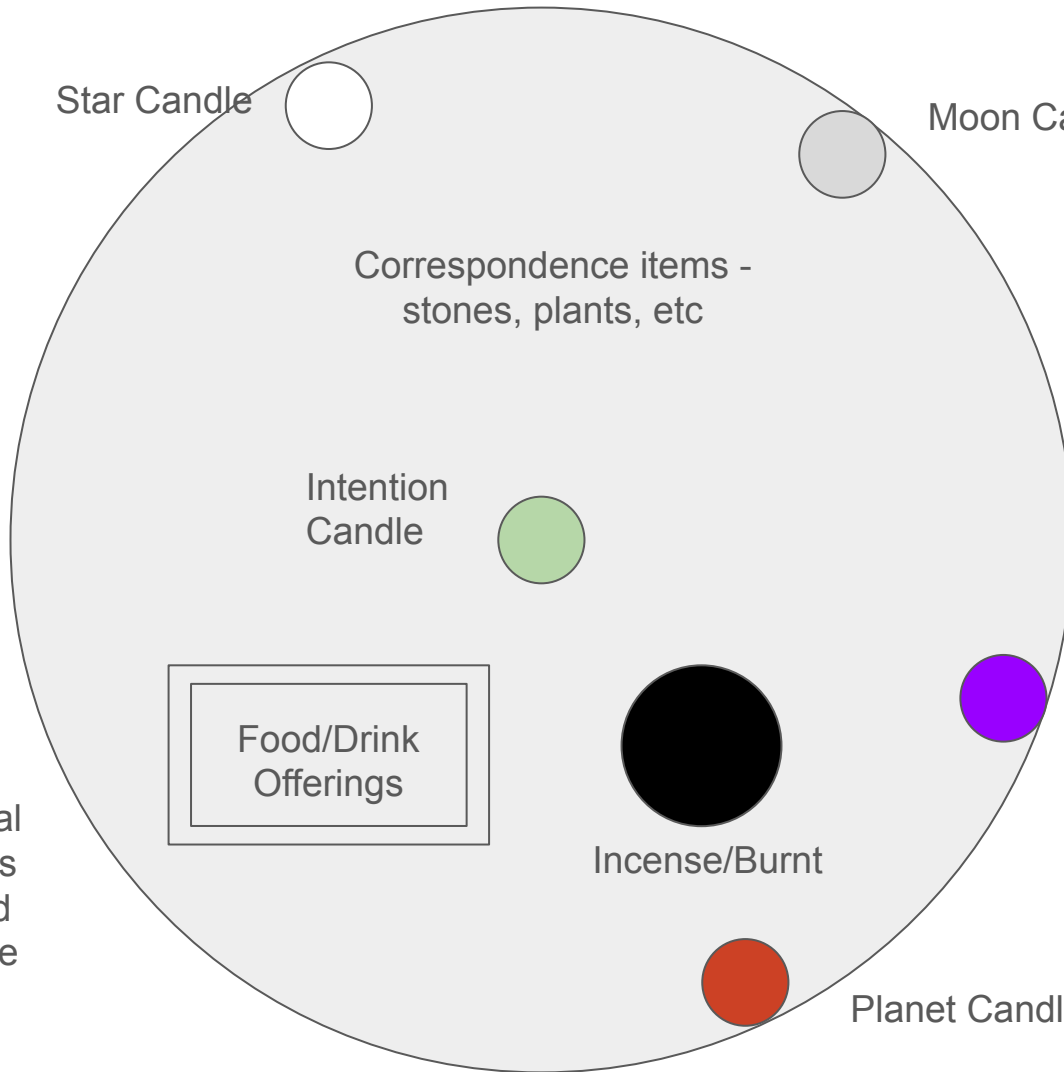
Planet Candle



Planet Candle



You can add directional
items / candles if that's
your practice - I would
put them outside of the
main circle.



Results

When stars come as guides, they're going to come in a particular shape - a shape is chosen, often for just one facet of their aspects, as fits their relationship with you. They may come as a person, or an animal related to their constellation, they may come as a color and sound. Their personality may be more playful, or more stern, than you expect. Take this information and do a second round of research - you'll often be surprised by connections you find later. In fact - saving research for after your first impression is just as valid.

Ongoing - Devotional Work

Altars and Shrines

- Modern era - less focused on direct magical interaction
- Light and/or shiny objects
- Knowing where they are, visiting with them at night if they're visible to you
- Allowing them to take the shape they want to take
- Letting them give guidance

Talismans and Structured Magical Workings



The Rules: time to put on our robes and wizard hats.

TL;dr: Really good windows are rare, and sometimes short.

- Moon in beneficial aspect to star (conjunct, sextile, trine)
- Moon is in correct phase (almost always waxing)
- Moon applying, not separating, to star (Moon's 'next perfection' of aspect is with star).
- Moon is in good shape - no oppressive signs(no Scorpio or Capricorn), no difficult aspects(conjunct, 'following square', opposition) with malefic planets(Saturn and Mars)
- Star not in difficult aspect with malefic planets (like Moon above)
- Star on a beneficial angle(Ascendent or midheaven) or beneficial house placement (according to need - not 2/6/8/12)

Bonus

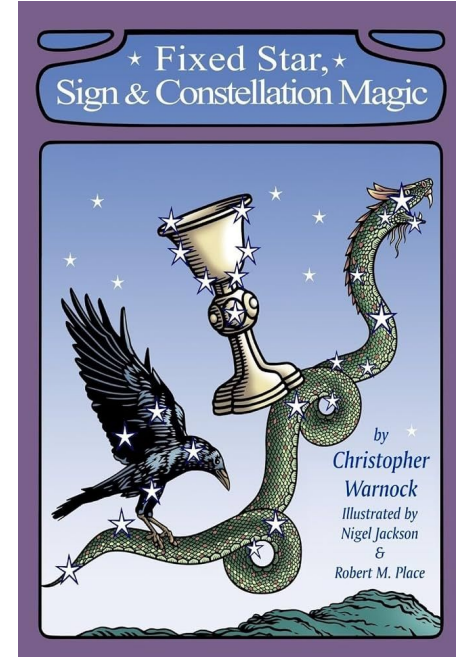
- Moon and/or star with good aspect to benefic planets
- Matching Planetary hour/day (www.planetaryhours.net)
- Protecting Ascendent and Midheaven from malefics

Talismans - Imagery and Sources

Imagery: adapting pictures from descriptions, using sigils or glyphs, sketching constellation shapes, designing your own image based off your personal relationship, and/or writing prayers and dedications.

Sources:

- The Picatrix, Book II of Three Books of Occult Philosophy, Hermes on the 15 Fixed Stars, Christopher Warnock.



Talismans - Materials and Method

Materials:

- Paper/parchment is easiest
- clay
- wood
- metal (if thin)
- Stone
- Pencil, Pen, 'myrrh ink', paint, precious stone paint, fire

Method:

- Tracing
- Painting over previously traced
- Stamping with previously made item
- Etching, sculpting, etc.



Witchy Ways with Stars

The glory of witchcraft and spirits is that the language is often a little different.

We care a lot about a personal relationship - which unfortunately means there's less of a 'recipe' and more of a 'sorry, you're going to have to ask them'.

If you're not at a point in your practice where you feel comfortable having that kind of direct conversation with a Big Spirit (or trusting that you'll understand that conversation), being more formal is fine (Grandma won't be insulted if you are polite, but may get insulted if you are informal in the wrong way).

Divination is also a great tool to figure things out.

Conclusions

The stars have been shining their light at us for a very long time. Humans have been telling stories to understand the stars for as long as we've been human; who they are, what kind of energy they have, what they omen. I invite you to join your ancestors in communing with, celebrating and seeking favor from our night sky.

Q&A

If we run out of time, I will HAPPILY discuss general methods, opinions on stars, and explain basic astrology facts to anyone - at the conference, after the conference, online, on a video call, over coffee.

You can reach me at denise@planetarycrafts.com, and @planetarycrafts in the usual Social Media Hellscares.

Example - Capella

- Capella - Behenian, so lots of information
- The left shoulder or goat of the Charioteer
 - The Goat that fed Zeus
 - Shoulder - load bearing
- Other Cultures
 - Part of the 'collar bones' (Inuit)
 - Canoe bailer / navigator (Hawaii)
- Agrippa / Hermes Trismegistus
 - "Horehound seed mixed with equal parts of mint, wormwood and mandrake, placed etc., [under sapphire, sic] exalts men to honors, and brings them the favor of kings and nobles, and heals toothache, and is very medicinal."
- Planets: Jupiter/Saturn....
 - OR According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Mars and Mercury; and, to Alvidas, of Mercury and the Moon.

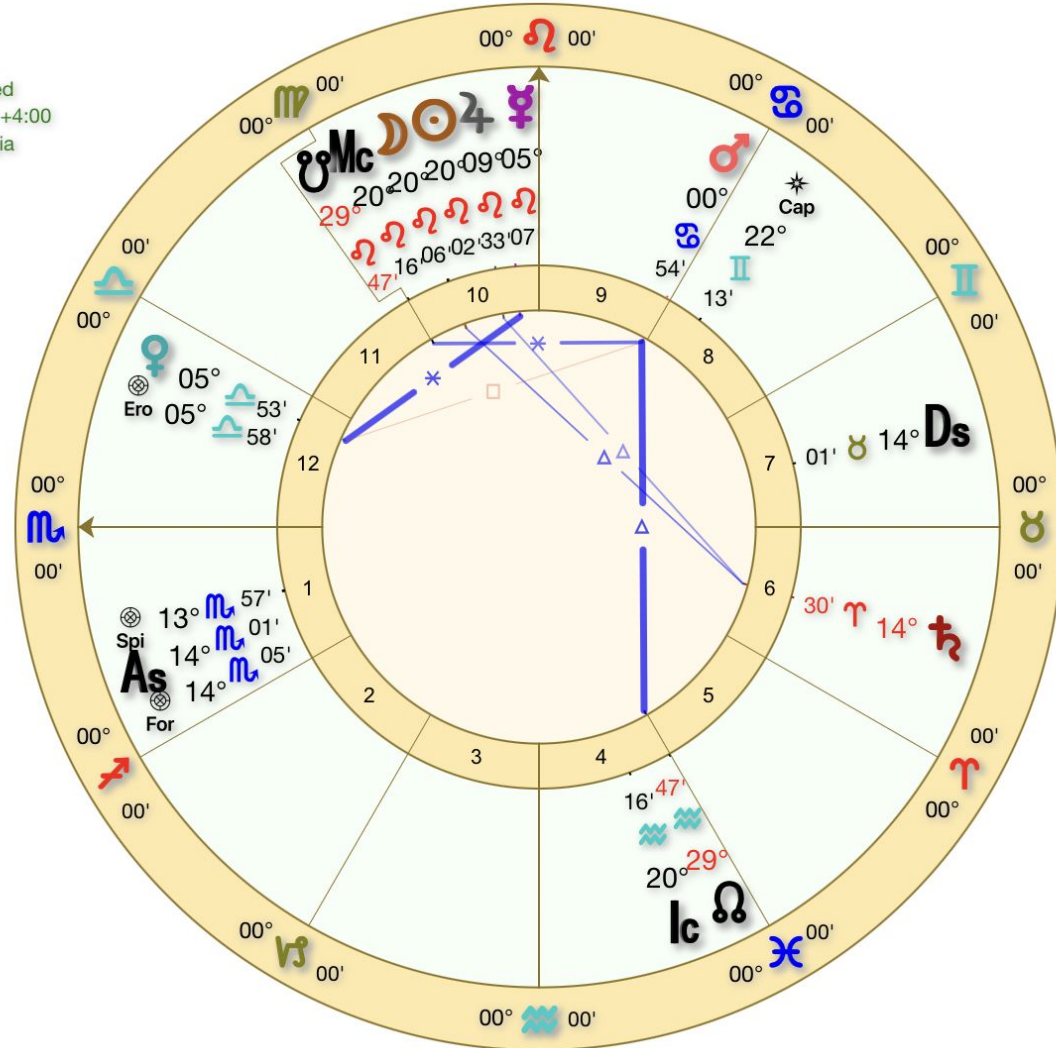
Here's a chart

- Moon in midheaven
- Applying sextile to star
- Just starting waxing
- Moving fast
- Sextile with Venus
- Jupiter same sign
- Saturn not harsh
- Mars in aversion
- Mercury Day
- Venus hour 1:44pm+
- BUT - 8th house....

Transits

Event

Aug 12 2026, Wed
1:44:15 PM EDT +4:00
Mableton, Georgia
Geocentric
Tropical
Whole Sign



Books for Further Reading

- **Spirit Work and Animism**
 - Six Ways, Aiden Wachter
 - Consorting with Spirits, Jason Miller
- **Fixed Star Astrology**
 - Fixed Star Astrology, Bernadette Brady
 - Secrets of the Ancient Skies, Diana Rosenberg
- **Star Lore**
 - Babylonian Star Lore, Gavin White
 - Star Lore for All Ages, William Tyler Olcott
- **Classic Talismanic Sources***
 - Picatrix: The Illustrated Picatrix, translated by Greer and Warnock
 - Agrippa: 3 Books of Occult Philosophy, Book 2, translated by Purdue
- **Modern Talismanic Sources**
 - Fixed Star, Sign & Constellation Magic, Christopher Warnock