

Diotima Mantineaia on the *Black Moon*
Urania's Well: Astrology for Changing Times
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Both the so-called “Black Moon” (second of two New Moons in a calendar month) and “Blue Moon” (second of two Full Moons in a calendar month) are determined by a human calendar, not the position of Moon in its relationship to Sun and Earth. Therefore, they have no meaning from an astrological perspective, or from a magical perspective. It’s just an accident of the calendar. In fact, this “Black Moon” of September actually occurred in October in the UK and points east due to the time differential. The phases of our Moon (New Moon, Full Moon, etc) are based on the relationship between Moon and Sun as viewed from Earth, and this relationship is what counts astronomically, astrologically, and magically.

At the New Moon, Sun and Moon are travelling together through the sky. You can’t see the New Moon because it is moving in tandem with Sun – rising when Sun rises, setting when it sets. It’s that meeting with Sun that *definesthe* New Moon. But as Moon continues its orbit around Earth, it begins to rise later than Sun, and when it is on the other side of Earth from Sun, it rises as Sun sets, and we have a Full Moon.

This is what is important in magic – the relationship between Sun and Moon as viewed from Earth, and the Zodiac signs in which the various phases of the Moon occur. Other phases – Crescent, Quarter, Gibbous, etc. occur in different signs in each month, and are also important in magic, both for the phase in the cycle and the signs in which these phases occur. There is an excellent explanation of Moon phases on the astronomy site, EarthSky: <http://earthsky.org/moon-phases/understandingmoonphases>

Moon travels through the entire circle of the Zodiac in a month as well, and the New Moon is always in the same sign as Sun. It is a waxing Moon until, at the Full Moon, it is in the sign opposite Sun. As it moves towards the next conjunction with Sun, it is waning. You cannot see Moon for a day or so before and after the New Moon. Some people call this entire period the Dark Moon, but magically, the Dark Moon is the day or two before the New Moon.

The only reason the calendar day on which these phases occur might make a difference magically is if you are using the planetary days and hours. For instance, a New Moon in Sagittarius that falls on a Thursday is going to give you a big dose of Jupiter energy, since Jupiter rules Sagittarius, and Thursday is Jupiter’s day. If the planet Jupiter aspects this New Moon, that’s even more Jupiter energy! So if you know a little astrology, you can plan your spellwork in advance to take advantage of these times.

If you’d like more information on the astronomy of astrology, I have a post that explains it here: <http://www.uraniawell.com/the-astronomy-of-astrology/> .