

The Starfire Messenger



A Free Weekly Newsletter

From Esoteric Astrologer Maureen Richmond, M.A.

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The Helical Rising of Sirius

In August of each year, an astronomical happening between our Sun and the star Sirius takes place. It's called the heliacal rising of Sirius, a term which signifies the moment in time at which the star Sirius can be seen on the eastern horizon just before the rising of the Sun. The term *heliacal rising* therefore means *rising with the Sun*.

The heliacal rising of Sirius arrangement occurs only once each year. It results from two factors: 1) the orbit of our planet around the Sun and the consequent changing view of the night sky to be had from Earth in that annual journey, and 2) the rotation of our planet upon its own axis. These two natural celestial movements combine to create the moment known as the heliacal rising of Sirius.

The photo below shows just what the heliacal rising of Sirius looks like from our vantage point on Earth. The glow of the rising Sun is on the left. The position of Sirius is to the right, just above the horizon. The surrounding stars are just barely visible, as they fade from sight in the glare of the rising Sun. In just a moment, the Sun will rise and completely obscure from view all the stars on the eastern horizon, including Sirius. Yet, for just a moment, the Sun and Sirius are seen just at the horizon.



For ancient Egypt, this configuration of Sun and Sirius held immense importance, for the heliacal rising of Sirius signified the onset of the flooding of the Nile, the primary natural cycle on which the entire civilization and economy of ancient Egypt depended. Sirius itself became important to Egypt, an emblem and symbol for the journey of the soul. For seventy days following the March setting of Sirius, this great star would be lost to sight in the glare of the Sun. Ancient Egypt therefore memorialized

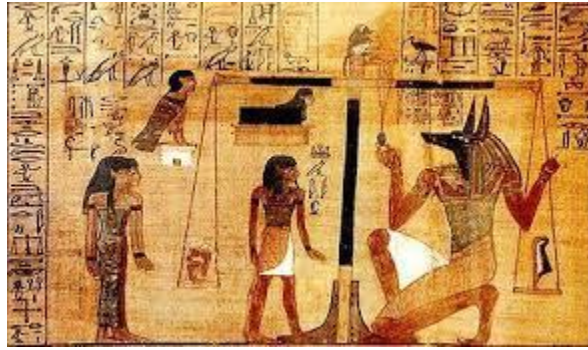
the seventy-day period during which Sirius was invisible, enshrining this number in the form of its hallowed funerary customs. Egyptian religion thus prescribed a seventy-day period of time as the duration for the mummification of the body and the preparation of the soul for its journey in Amenti, the after-death world. During this journey in Amenti, the soul would be led and attended to by Anubis, the jackal-headed god, who is also associated with the star Sirius as a result.



Anubis



Anubis Tending a Mummy



Anubis Tending the Scales of Justice
in the Egyptian Judgement Scene

The star Sirius therefore assumed profound religious significance within ancient Egyptian religion, standing for and symbolizing divine presence, spiritual guidance in the afterworld, divine wisdom, immortality, divine order, knowledge of celestial influences, and eternal cyclicity. As such, Sirius was associated not only with Anubis, but also with Isis, Thoth, Hathor, and many other divine figures in the ancient Egyptian pantheon.

The star Sirius is likewise of great importance in the Ageless Wisdom as given by the Tibetan Master Djwhal Khul through Alice Bailey in the twentieth century. According to the Bailey literature, Sirius is a star of unparalleled importance in the spiritual universe, a source of cosmic love-wisdom, the soul and parent of our solar system, the origin point of karmic law, and the cause of periodicity. The similarity to themes in ancient Egyptian religious belief is evident, in that both ancient Egyptian religious belief and Bailey's esotericism associate the star Sirius with time, cyclicity, cosmic law, and even divine judgement. In addition, the esotericism of Bailey holds that the star Sirius is a source of cosmic and other avatars, a fact perhaps reflective of the association of great gods and goddesses with Sirius in the Egyptian religion. Further, Bailey's esotericism reveals that Sirius is the founder of the mysteries of initiation on our planet, a factor in the rise of the

Human Kingdom, the prototype of the planetary Hierarchy on Earth and its source of inspiration, the impelling power behind the founding of the Masonic Tradition, potent in processes of initiation, and the source or destination for one of the Seven Cosmic Paths of Higher Evolution.

Importantly, the esoteric teaching penned by Bailey suggests that the heliacal rising of Sirius functions as a key point in the spiritual year.

Writing in *Esoteric Astrology*, the Tibetan Master stated,

“...when the new world religion is founded and is working, we shall find that the major, monthly festival in August, held at the time of the full moon, will be dedicated to the task of making contact, via the Hierarchy, with Sirian force.”¹

As this passage makes clear, the spiritual work to be accomplished at this time is an alignment in consciousness between Humanity, Hierarchy, and the star Sirius. It seems significant that the Tibetan would place such an intended event during the only month in the year in which the heliacal rising of Sirius occurs. It would therefore appear that the heliacal rising of Sirius is the reason why the Full Moon period taking place closest in time to this event would assume the role of a special conduit into the energies and forces of the star Sirius.

The exact date and clock time of the heliacal rising of Sirius vary with location on the face of the Earth. In 2020, heliacal risings of Sirius occur throughout the first half of August, from August 3 to August 15. Within this period, the Full Moon of August takes place on August 3, 2020.

Find the exact time of the heliacal rising of Sirius for your location, expressed in terrestrial longitude and latitude:

<http://www.culturediff.org/english/clientareatest1.php>

¹ Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 299.

Analysis and Prediction for the Week Ahead

The week of **July 20 – 26** opens with a feeling of rejuvenation as the New Moon and newly direct Mercury combine to re-establish forward momentum in thought and action. Further, a soothing sextile between Jupiter in Capricorn and Neptune in Pisces comes into the picture, exact on July 27, but palpable throughout the week at hand. As a result, energies supportive of healing and restoration of goodwill circulate. Progress unfolds in accessing the intuition and in clearly conceptualizing the right step ahead. Spiritual guidance is strong, as is our meditative willingness to attend to it.

At the same time, however, challenges appear as a result of a forming square between Mercury and Mars, along with an opposition to Saturn by the Sun and the Moon. As a result, this week is also colored by Mercury-Mars impatience and even a bit of sour Saturnian resentment, if one lets it be so. Tests of character arrive under the Saturn influence, just while temptations to let the unruly personality vehicles vie for attention. The heat is on.

Monday and Tuesday July 20 and 21 are strongly conditioned by the opposition of the Sun to Saturn. The pace of events may be too slow for some. Patience is required of us if we are to remain centered and poised through this passage. The **New Moon occurs on Monday July 20** in the 28th degree of Cancer, at 12:33 pm CDT, signifying new trends for the masses as well as a reawakening to history and heritage for the individual. The resulting burst of energy gets our thoughts in gear, but at the same time, we find ourselves managing large, complex projects and consequential matters which require intensive focus and detailed management. Yet we can do it, one step at a time, if we don't give up. Responsibilities, duties, and requirements are in our thoughts. Elders and the relationships between generations figure in.

The energies shift a bit on **Wednesday and Thursday July 22 and 23** as Mercury and Uranus form an exact sextile from 10 degrees Cancer to 10 degrees Taurus. The scintillating sextile helps lift our attention to higher levels, while also attuning us to joy and redeeming possibilities. At the same time, the Mercury-Uranus sextile helps to materialize solutions for recent worries, upsets, and concerns. Adding to the changed atmosphere, the **Sun enters Leo on Tuesday July 22** at 3:37 am CDT, bringing the dynamic power of the Divine Lion into our experience for the next month. This will help everyone overcome the doubts and fears which have loomed large in the last few months. Now, the fire and courage of Leo will help point us toward our best creative efforts for the next month. A particularly gratifying interval unfolds on **Thursday July 23 from 11 am to 3 pm CDT**, when the Moon in Virgo activates the existing Mercury-Uranus sextile, trining Uranus and making the sextile to Mercury. Good things in the areas of personal health, family relations, and creative efforts are sure to emerge at this time.

Friday July 24 extends the good feeling from 5 am to 7 pm CDT while the Moon, still in unassuming but competent Virgo, trines the transiting Capricorn stellium of Jupiter, Pluto, and Saturn. This interval will help stabilize emotions and produce tangible results in employment, career, daily goals, domestic organization, and interaction with nature. Gardening and land management are much favored, especially in situations where rock and soil must be moved or stabilized.

Saturday July 25 sees the dial spin toward temptations to over-react, as the Moon, now in Libra, moves to activate the approaching Mercury-Mars square. This is especially true from 7 pm to midnight CDT, a good time to step back, observe, and learn ahead of time what the square between Mercury and Mars might mean in our individual situations in just a couple of days. We are in a bit of fuss and rush now, keen to get much done, but it would be best if we took a deep breath and paced ourselves. Haste makes waste, as they say, but it also stirs up agitation. Thus, let us not go there.

Sunday July 26 again brings temptation to indulge intense feelings and reactions, as the normally equanimous Libra Moon gets tangled up in a confounding square to the transiting Capricorn stellium from 7 am to 9 pm CDT. This arrangement would not be so compelling were it not for the Mercury-Mars square also brewing right now, and exact on Monday July 27.

In sum, **the week of July 20 – 26 serves as a good preparation and warm-up for the four-month period** described in last week's *Starfire Messenger*. This upcoming period of four months will be profoundly conditioned and colored by the square of transiting Mars in Aries to the transiting stellium of Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto in Capricorn. With Saturn as exoteric and esoteric ruler of Capricorn, the four-month square pits the individualistic Mars principle against the subdued Saturn principle. Such an arrangement implies a serious test of self-control and self-discipline. The current week will provide hints for the precise area of life in which this test is likely to manifest for each individual. Yet, the whole exercise need not be heinous. If we identify and commit to abiding by key spiritual principles, we will be clear about our marching orders.

"Mars and Saturn...are exceedingly potent in connection with initiation into the life of the Hierarchy."²

"Saturn...applies the tests and is so chosen or invoked because the third ray is not only its particular ray but is also the ray of our planet, the Earth. The two notes synchronise. Saturn is also the hierarchical ruler of Libra and, therefore, it brings to the manifestation of mankind and to the various hierarchies involved, a point of crisis to which the clue and the outcome lies in the recognition of balance."³

² Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 199.

³ Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, 549 – 550.