

ECLIPSES IN 2018

Between 4 and six eclipses happen each year during two eclipse seasons approximately six months apart and moving backwards through the zodiac in an 18+ year cycle (Saros); each belongs to a series lasting c. 1,300 years. This year there will be 5:

31/01/2018, 13.30 total lunar at 11 degrees Leo

15/02/2018, 20.51 partial solar 27 degrees Aquarius

13/07/2018, 04.00 partial solar 20 degrees Cancer

27/07/2018, 21.20 total lunar 4 degrees Aquarius

11/08/2018, 10.48 partial solar 18 degrees Leo

In our post scientific era, we maybe no longer fear that the darkening of the light is a negative omen, meaning the Gods are angry, the Moon has swallowed the Sun, the King may fall, or that dark forces will come out of the woodwork. However, our subliminal reactions to eclipses can still profoundly destabilize and disorientate.

Most organisms, even molluscs, register some fear, as if a cosmic life support system has temporarily shut down. There are changes in the ionosphere, radio interference, and a deep silence falls. Even humanistic astrologers may feel a certain uh-oh.

Eclipses mark a gap or hiatus in the continuum, when current certainties and normality ceases. They often coincide with periods of transition, breaks with the past, or instability, such as moving house. Astrologers don't recommend starting new ventures soon after an eclipse.

Eclipse points can be sensitive for months, or even years, depending on the duration of the eclipse. When another planet passes over the degree of a recent eclipse, some sort of wobble might be triggered, especially in mundane or political astrology. Mars transits carry an amber warning.

Any eclipses closely conjunct or opposed to a planet in an individual's astrological birth chart will be experienced personally, but it is also possible to observe general effects in the world, and experiences which are widely shared, for instance the darkening of the sun after the crucifixion, or the eclipse on the day after Princess Diana's death. Countries underneath the eclipse path are also strongly affected.

The August 2017 solar eclipse in Leo (a fire sign connected with rulers) was not only overhead in the USA but also opposed to their national Aquarian Moon (indicating the people, and also scientific and democratic principles). The less powerful eclipse in February will trigger this Moon again. This could be interpreted astrologically as the US issues connected with autocratic rule, major fires, the science of climate change and growing inequality.

Tibetan traditions maintain that eclipses deplete vitality and confidence but they also assert that the effects of any spiritual practice are magnified x180,000 at these times. Eclipses are times of perfect, or almost perfect, alignment between the Sun, the Moon and Earth. Thus they are the ideal times to align our minds, bodies and spirits, and practice some kind of contemplation or aspiration.

'Spiritual practice' will mean different things to different people. It could be affirmation, prayer, mantra, breath work, visualisation, yoga or ritual. It is extremely helpful to allow time for some practice to generate and remain in awareness and to strengthen one's core energy field and intentionality. Doing this can really maximize the potential for positive realignment, and pre-empt some of the typical negative effects, such as lowered confidence or doubt.

Famous people born on eclipse days include Karl Marx, Genghis Khan, Donald Trump, Catherine Middleton and Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook

