

FACULTY DAY 2016

The Astrological Path: Walking in Two Worlds



PRACTICAL MAGIC

Dane Rudhyar

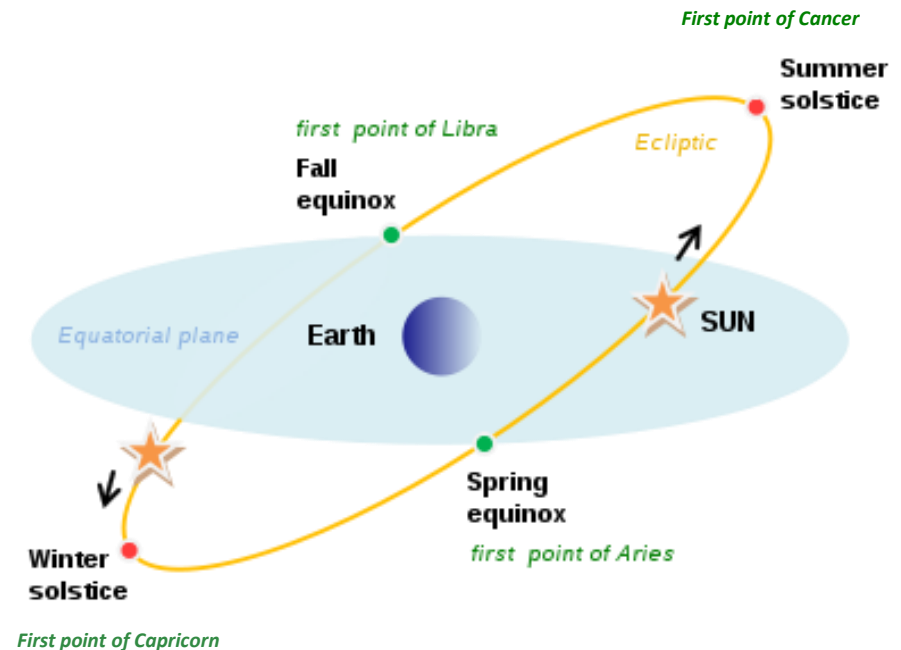
Astrological Signs - The Pulse of Life

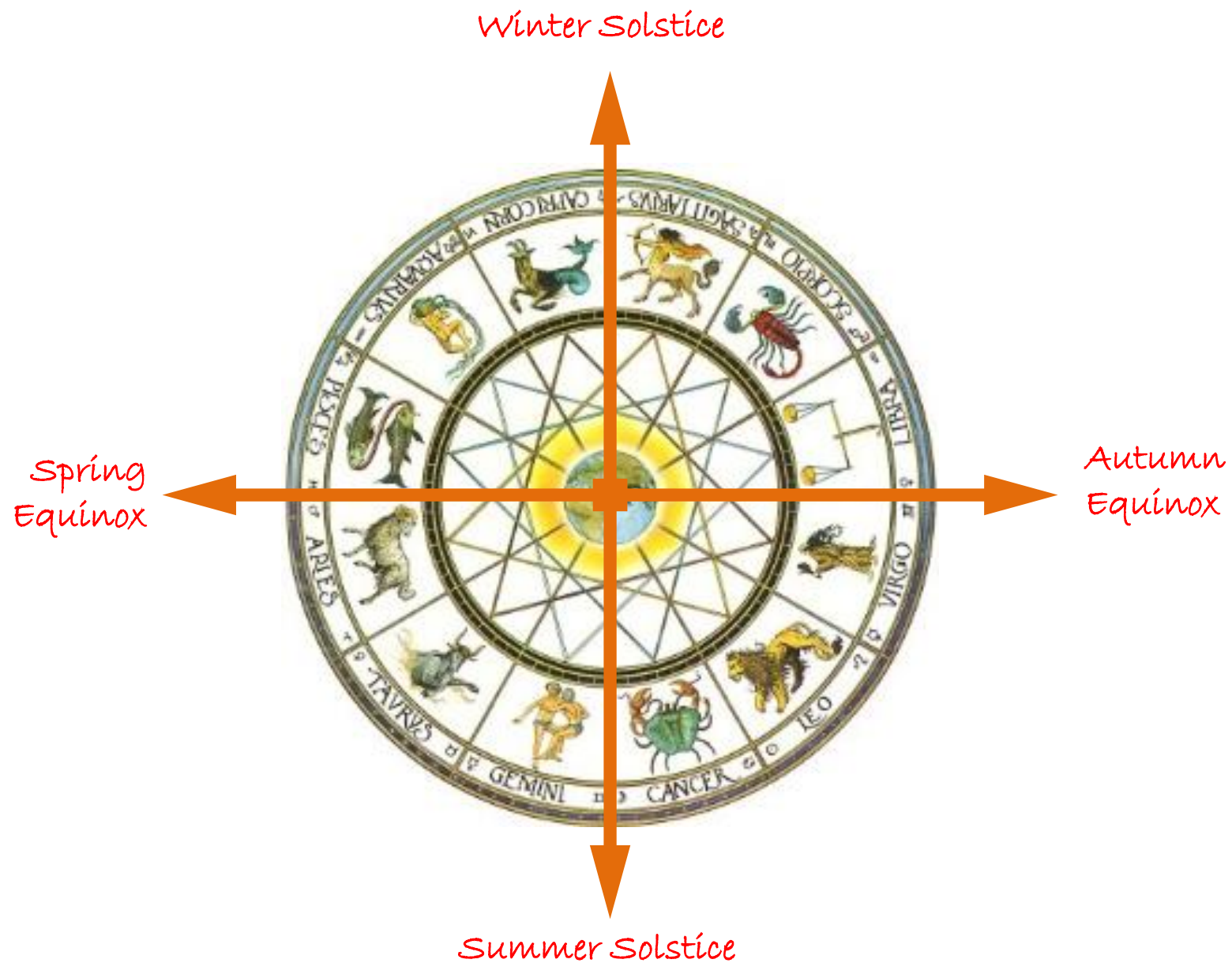
(pp. 14-25)

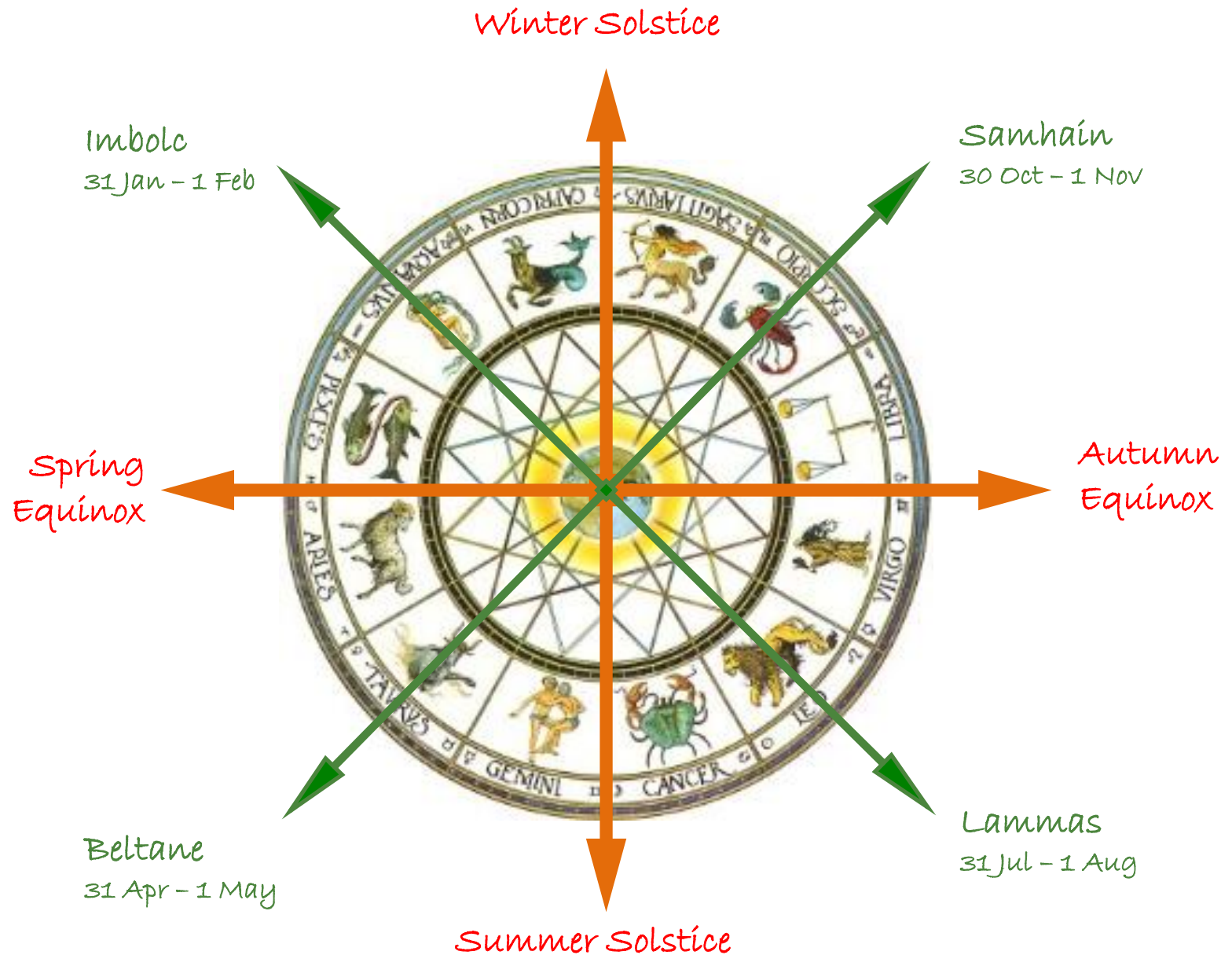
“The Zodiac is an ancient record of the cyclic experience of the seasons in the temperate regions of the Northern hemisphere where astrology was born.”

“The essential thing about the Zodiac is not the hieroglyphs drawn upon celestial maps; it is not the symbolical stories built up around Greek mythological themes – significant as these may be. For a humanity which once lived very close to the earth, the changing panorama of vegetation throughout the year was the strongest representation of change; for the inner emotional and biological changes of our human nature correspond very closely indeed to the outer changes in vegetation.”

“These experiences belong to the Root-nature of our common humanity and are steeped in collective wisdom and organic instinct. Reality has a rhythmic heart and the dance of cyclic life pulsates through every human action, feeling or thought.”







Dane Rudhyar
Astrological Signs - The Pulse of Life

As we become more and more divorced from, and indeed alienated from, the soil and the instinctual, seasonal rhythms of life – as we develop an individualistic mind and an ambitious ego – the vitalistic patterns lose much of their meaning.

A new set of problems develops, and today it is the solution of these new problems that is the main task for astrology.

SAGITTARIUS

22nd November – 21st December



Johfra Bosschart Zodiac Series
(Dutch painter, 1919-1998)

- **Advent:** (from the Latin = 'coming') commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas – around 1st December. A festival of light and the abundant presence of candles symbolizing the spiritual quest for truth and knowledge in the midst of darkness.
- **Anticipation:** A time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the return of the Unconquered Sun at the Winter Solstice.
- **Saturnalia:** an ancient Roman festival in honour of the deity Saturn, beginning two weeks before the winter solstice. A period of misrule, extravagance, general merrymaking and wild revelry.

Sol Invictus

Roman Sun God, the
Unconquered Sun



SAGITTARIUS

22nd November – 21st December



Advent Calendars and Candles

The countdown: Anticipation of the return of the sun, at the darkest time of the year.

Saturnalia

Romans during the Decadence

Thomas Couture (1815-1879)

Oil on canvas, Musée d'Orsay



CAPRICORN

22nd December – 21st January



Johfra Bosschart

- **Winter Solstice** – a period of profound re-orientation as time stands still on this axis of birth and death.
- **Boxing Day** – 26 December, the feast of St. Stephen – the natural order is restored.
- **Janus** – 1st January, first day of the month and of the new year – Roman god of change and transitions.
- **Twelve Days of Christmas** – 25 Dec to 6 Jan. Time to reflect on the meaning of the incarnation of the spirit.
- Commemoration of **St John the Evangelist** – 27 Dec “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14, 16).
- **Epiphany** – 6th January

CAPRICORN

22nd December – 21st January



Silver Roman coin
225-12 BCE

JANUS

(The first month of the Julian calendar bore his name - *Januarius*)
One of the oldest Roman deities, god of beginnings, represented by gates and doorways.



The Epiphany

In Christianity, the Epiphany refers to the visit of the Magi – the realization of the Incarnation of the spirit – of Christ as the Son of God



Gold reveals that the babe in the manger is actually a king

Frankincense used in temple worship, revealing that Jesus is the God incarnate.

Myrrh used for embalming, signifying that Jesus has come to die.



AQUARIUS

21st January – 19th February



Johfra Bosschart

- **Imbolc** - 1st February – festival of the **Celtic goddess Brigid**, guardian of nature - celebrating hope for the future, the stirring of the life-force, and the return of the waters of life.
- **Candlemas** –feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary.
- **Valentines Day** - 14 February – celebration of the ideal of love, expressed in poetry and prose.
- **Carnival** – Mardi Gras
- **Lent** beginning on Ash Wednesday

AQUARIUS

21st January – 19th February

Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (1412- 1416)

An enclosure surrounds a farm and sheep pen. On the right, four beehives and a dovecote. Inside the house, a woman and a pair of young men warm themselves in front of the fire. Outside, a man chops down a tree with an axe, bundles of sticks at his feet. While another blows on his hands to warm them. A third man drives a donkey towards the neighbouring village, loaded with wood.



1st February:
Imbolc – or Candlemas



AQUARIUS

21st January – 19th February

St Valentine's Day – 14th February

Chaucer's love birds

Parlement of Foules (1382)

First recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love in English.

*For this was on seynt Volantynys day, Whan
every bryd comyth there to chese his make*

["For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when
every bird cometh there to choose his
mate."]



Carnival time - Mardi Gras

PISCES

20th February – 20th March



Johfra Bosschart

LENT

A veiled altar cross

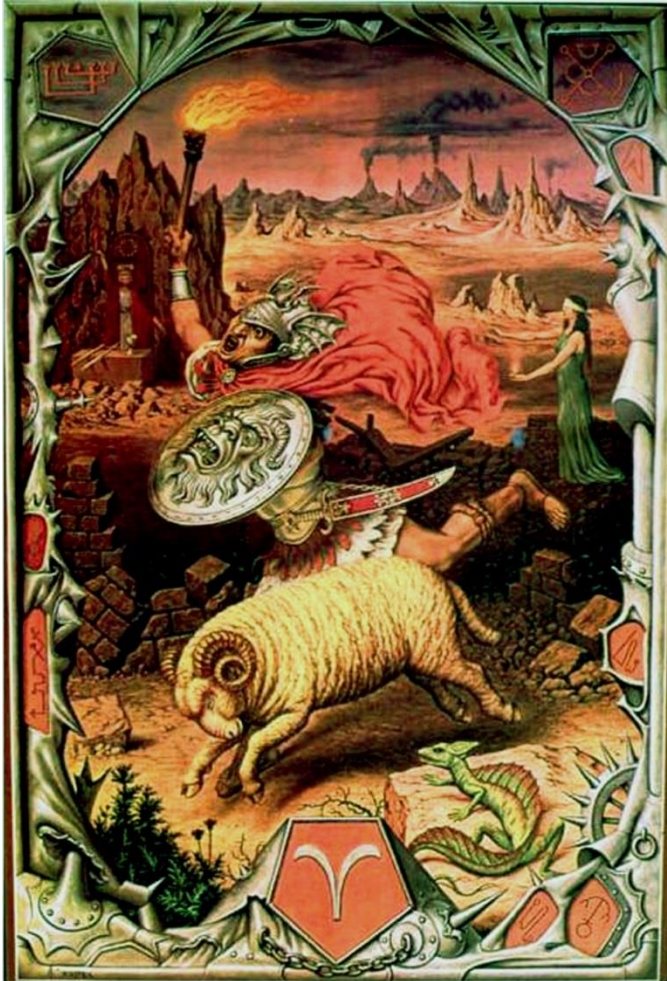
St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Memphis, Tennessee.



A **Good Friday** tradition is to replace the purple altar coverings with black, to veil all pictures, statues and crosses in mourning black and to extinguish all candles for the Easter vigil, which continued until sunrise on Easter Sunday.

ARIES

21st March – 20th April



Johfra Bosschart

- **Lady Day** – 25 March (now 6th April – start of the official tax and legal year)
Traditional start of the agricultural, military, pilgrimage and crusade season.
- **Annunciation** – mothering Sunday
- **Easter** - celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.
- **April Fool's Day** – 1st April
- **St George's Day** – on the Monday after the second Sunday of Easter – normally around 23 April

ARIES

21st March – 20th April

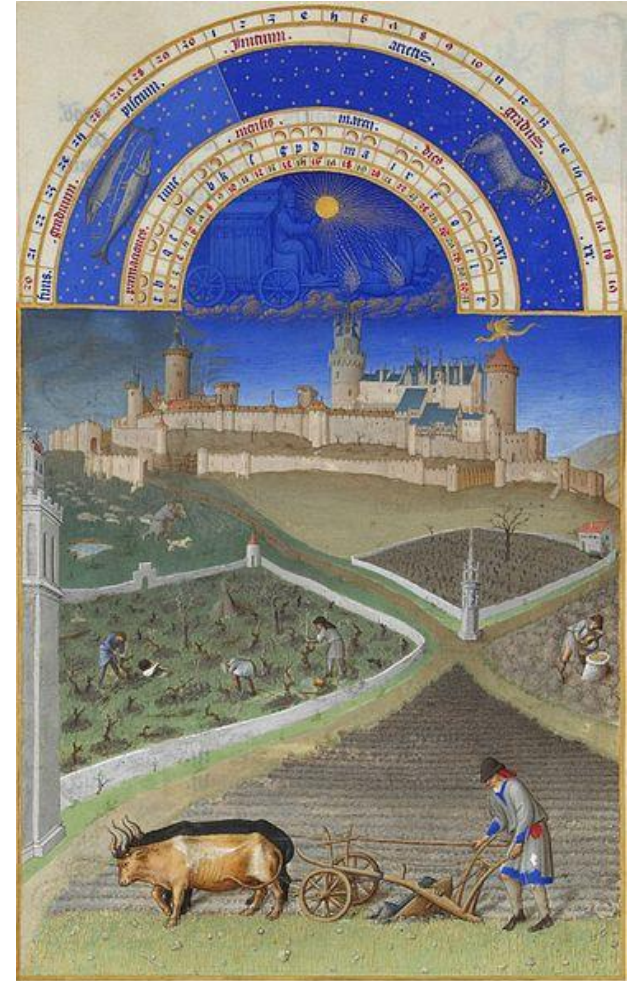


The Canterbury Tales: Prologue Geoffrey Chaucer

When April with its sweet-smelling showers has pierced the drought of March to the root ... and the west wind has breathed life into the tender new leaves of the tender new leaves, **and the young sun has run half its course in Aries** ... then folk long to go on pilgrimages to seek foreign shores, to distant shrines, and especially from every shire's end of England, to Canterbury they went to seek the holy blessed martyr who helped them when they were sick.

Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (1412-1416)

In the foreground, a farmer ploughing a field with two oxen. Winemakers prune the vine in a pen on the left and till the soil with a hoe to aerate it. On the right, a man is sowing seeds. In the background, a shepherd guards the flock with his dog.



ARIES

21st March – 20th April



Richard I Leaving England for the Crusades, 1189

(Glyn Warren
Philpot, 1884-
1937,
Parliamentary Art
Collection)



April Fool's Day



25th March – Day of the birth of the Holy Grail

Arthurian Myth of the Wasteland, ruled over by the Fisher King, Parcifal and the Holy Grail – the miraculous vessel whose symbolism is rebirth and renewal, the power of freeing the waters, restoring the land – healing the spirit and nourishing the soul.

ARIES

21st March – 20th April

George and the Dragon
St George's Day – 23 April



George Scott



Rogier van der Weyden
(1399 – 1464)

TAURUS

21st April – 21st May

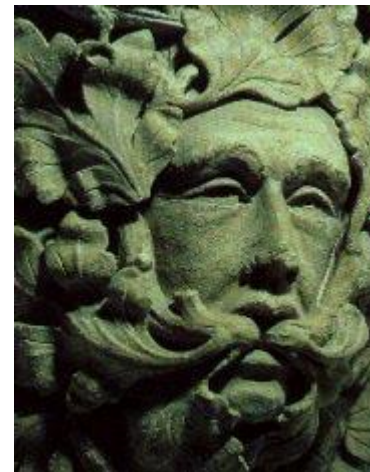


Johfra Bosschart

1st May – Festival of Beltane

Celebration of fertility – the growth of plants, leaves and flowers, the greening of the earth. Cattle were let out of their winter quarters into the fields.

Processions, Maypole dancing and the crowning of the Queen of May.



Green Man – stone carving and wall plaque



TAURUS

21st April – 21st May



**Crowning of the young
May Queen**



Maypole Dancing

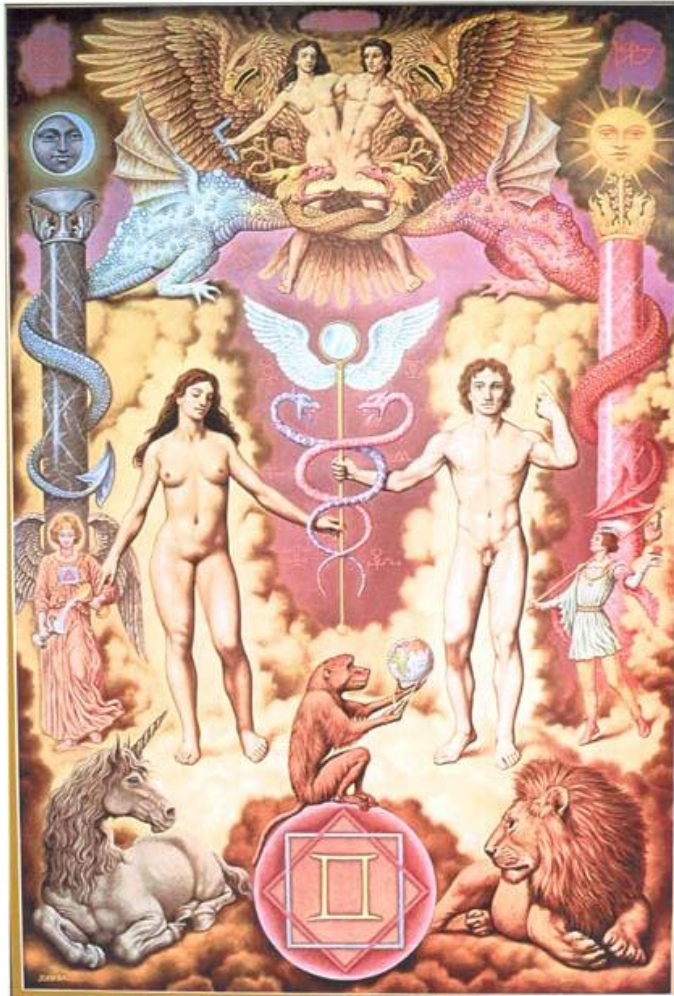
Ritual cyclical dance steps to link the reviving energy of the Sun with the growing vegetation in the earth beneath.



Twisting or plaiting the ribbons

GEMINI

22nd May – 21st June



Johfra Bosschart

- **Agriculture:** Cutting the hay for winter fodder. Sheep dipping and shearing.
- **Whitsun:** Spring holiday seven weeks after Easter. Travelling fetes, fairs, pageants and parades. Morris dancing.
- **Pentecost:** Commemorating the descent of the holy spirit upon Christ's disciples – giving them their prophetic tongue of wisdom or 'wit' – from then they set off on their ministries, to spread the word.

GEMINI

22nd May – 21st June



*Très
Riches
Heures du
Duc de
Berry
(1412-
1416)*



Morris Dancers



1600

Medieval floor tile celebrating the spirit of misrule, showing a triumphant hunting hare mounted on a dog, with grinning masks in the corners.



CANCER

22nd June – 22nd July



Johfra Bosschart

- **Summer Solstice** — midsummer bonfires to celebrate the power of the Sun at its zenith - the gateway to the inner realms – ‘the door of the year’.
- Village and community gatherings, music festivals, family trips to the seaside.
- **Well dressing** – celebration of the life giving source of the underground waters.
- **Birthday of St. John the Baptist** – 24 June celebrating Christ’s purification by water and spiritual rebirth.

CANCER

22nd June – 22nd July

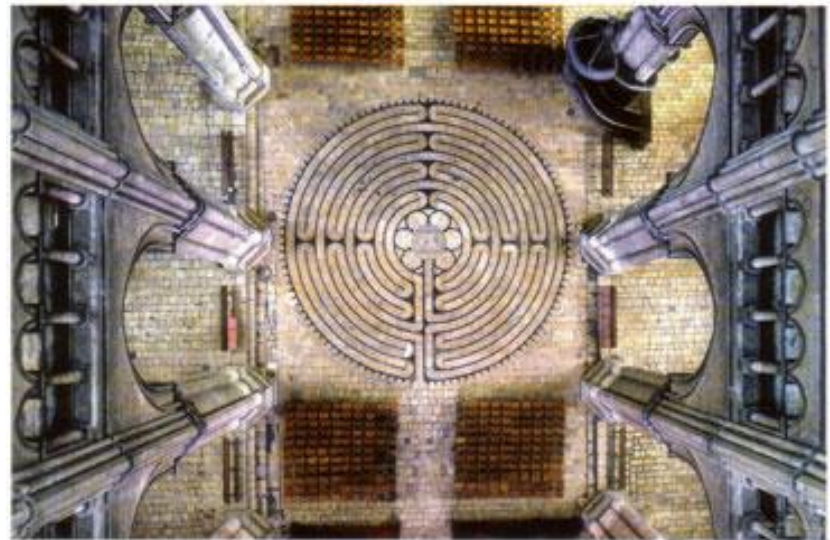


Chalice Well, Glastonbury

Well Dressing Rituals



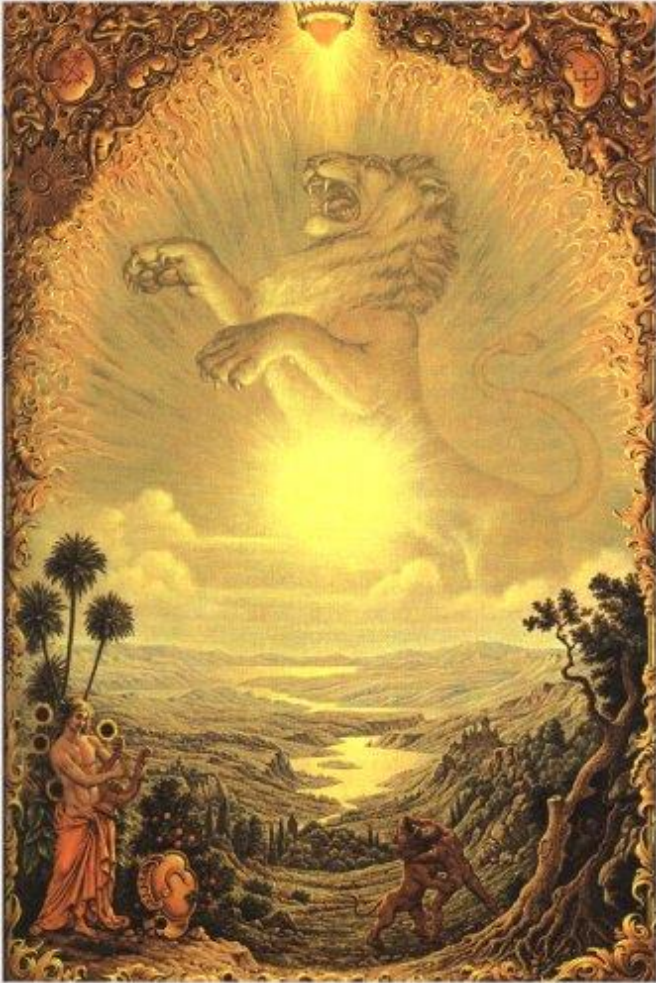
**Baptismal font, St
Dunstan's Church,
Baltonsborough,
Somerset**



The Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral

LEO

23rd July – 22nd August



Johfra Bosschart

- **The dog days of Summer** – early July to end August – waiting for the crops to ripen in the hot sun.
- 1st August - **Lughnasadh** – celebration of the wedding of the Sun god Lugh to the Earth goddess, causing the ripening of the crops.
- 1st August – **Lammas festival** – the start of the harvesting season.

LEO

23rd July – 22nd August

Sunflowers and Lavender

Vincent van Gogh



By this time of year the heads of SUNFLOWERS are full and heavy with their spiral of seeds, spending the whole day gently turning their heads to gaze at the Sun. They symbolize the fertility of the Solar Logos.



The ripening of the wheat

LEO

23rd July – 22nd August



Crop Circles
Wiltshire 2015



Fire Wheels



Lammas (Loaf Mass)



VIRGO

23rd August – 23rd September



Johfra Bosschart



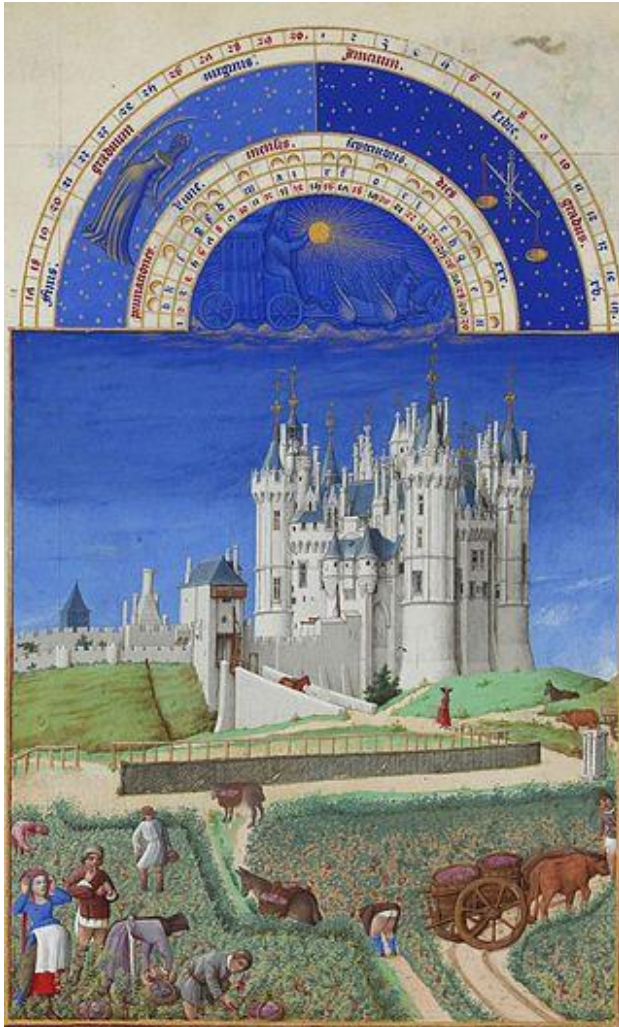
Vincent Van Gogh

Harvest in Provence, 1888



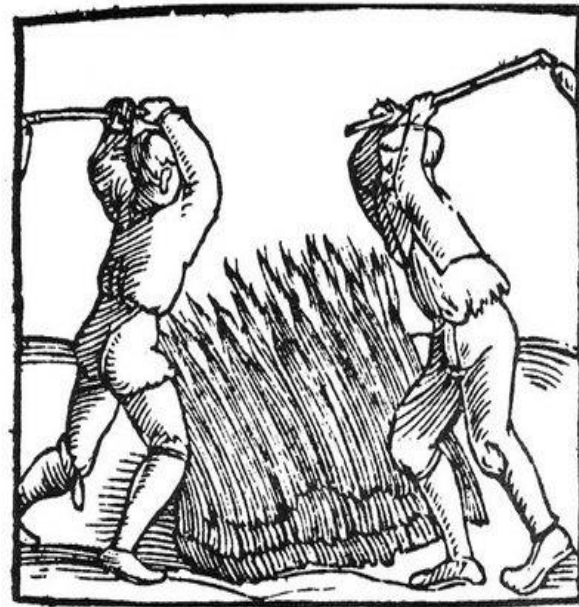
VIRGO

23rd August – 23rd September



Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (1412-1416)

September is illustrated by the grape harvest. The grape clusters are placed in baskets which are then emptied onto carts pulled by oxen. The background shows the castle of Saumur in the Anjou wine region .



LIBRA

24th September – 23rd October



Johfra Bosschart



Harvest Festival

LIBRA

24th September – 23rd October

September 29, Michaelmas – the Feast of St Michael

In Christianity, the Archangel Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, honoured for defeating Satan in the war in heaven. **He is the protector against the dark of the night, and the administrator of cosmic intelligence**



Mosaic of Saint Michael on the facade of Serbian Orthodox Church in Trieste

St Michael defeats the Devil

Eugene Delacroix, 1854-61

Saint-Sulpice, Paris



SCORPIO

24th October – 22nd November



Johfra Bosschart

- **31st October – Samhain or Halloween.** Festival of the dead. Slaughter of animals and communication with the other world.
- **1st November – All Saints Day** – Christian commemoration of the dead elevated to Sainthood
- **2nd November – All Souls Day** – commemoration of departed spirits not elevated to Sainthood
- **5th November – Guy Fawkes Night**, continuation of earlier tradition of burning the effigies of evil spirits or enemies of the past year.
- **11th November – Armistice day**, a time to remember and mourn those lost in war.

SCORPIO

24th October – 22nd November

**Apotropaic Pumpkins lit at Halloween to
repel bad spirits and evil forces**



The burning of the effigies of enemies



SCORPIO

24th October – 22nd November

All Souls Day – 2nd November



All Saints Day – 1st November
Fra Angelico

Phases of the Moon



The Planetary Days of the Week

