

# The Midnight Journal

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT MAGAZINE OF THE RAVEN ACADEMY OF MYSTICAL ARTS

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## TMJ STAFF

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# THE ROSE QUARTZ: A PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE

BY • VETURIUS

AUG 2020

*By the roadside in the middle of the Utah deserts was a solitary shop, a shop that sold an assortment of minerals and fossils that were found in the local area.*

It was the middle of summer in the year 2019, and the sun was beaming down against the surface, including my skin as I stepped out of the car.

One of the stones that I picked up from the assortment is a fragment of Rose Quartz, the size of my fist. Its polished, yet somewhat rough surface was cool to the touch, and its rosy pink color was enticing to the eye. Every time I take a look at the mineral in question, I seem to feel a sense of peace and longing, that it's a reminder that I'm happy where I am, yet I still have a long way to go in order to find my ultimate reward: eternal happiness.

To speak in more logical terms, the Rose Quartz is considered one of the healing stones, strongly connected with the heart chakra, for it represents love, gentleness, emotional healing, the release of stress, and uniting with the Divine. It also represents the planet Venus and the zodiac signs Taurus and Libra.

After breaking up with my ex-boyfriend, I would always stare at the mystical mineral every time I sit at my desk, wondering if I would ever have a better sense of what I want in a relationship than what I had when I was with him, especially when I had experienced manipulative and possessive behavior coming from him to the point where I felt like I was trapped. I used to think to myself if severing our connection was the right move, considering the fact that he was so persistent in wanting to keep the spark alive, or if I should have given him a second chance.

Day by day, my intuition told me that I should make the most out of the last year I had left in high school, and at the same time, love myself no matter what choices I made. I felt like I was at the height of my happiness when the speakers



blared to life during my seventh-period class, where it was announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that schools will have to be closed for an extended amount of time, that we will have an extended spring break, and eventually, that we had to finish classes online.

I also was back together with my ex-boyfriend when the pandemic hit. Despite the fact that we had to quarantine in our own homes, the self-love I have learned from my first breakup with him stayed with me as I caught up with my hobbies and jumped right back in the hobbies that I used to enjoy. My rose quartz also encouraged me to keep doing my hobbies and going on with my life. I even had the newfound courage to break up with my ex-boyfriend once again due to the fact that he wanted me all to himself, not leaving enough space for me to balance my hobbies and my lessons at the same time, for the love he had for me was not love but lust. Not to mention that he did not exactly accept my gender identity at all.

Now in the present, although it's packed away with my collection of minerals, to come with me when I move for college, it's still an important guide in my life. The guy himself is already behind me and I'm already looking forward to what the next four years will bring me in regards to my social life and my love life. As much as I want to try and see if I could find potential partners to share my life experience with, I will let time take its course, and bring me to where I truly belong in regards to my life journey. Whether it'd be a newfound success in a career or just pure happiness within me, I know that I am not alone, for the Rose Quartz stands out in helping me choose the path that I want to take in order to experience this love for myself.

# RETROGRADE: FRIEND OR FOE?

BY • LYBERA

AUG 2020



*We all know that time of panic when we hear Mercury is in retrograde, so what does it mean when various, multiple planets are in retrograde simultaneously? Is this a time to worry, or a time to be opportunistic?*

As of August 3rd, 2020, five planets are in retrograde: Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Pluto, and Chiron; however, many astrologists assert that the latter three do not disorient us nearly as much as Jupiter and Saturn (Retrograde Planets, 2020). Please use this article as a roadmap to understand the retrogrades of Jupiter and Saturn.

Jupiter entered retrograde on May 14th of this year, and Jupiter leaves retrograde on September 12th, (Astrology Today). This is a time to reflect, philosophically and spiritually. This is a time that pushes us to grow and flourish despite the personal obstacles we face. Now, Jupiter spends a good portion of every year in retrograde, so it's safe to assume we are used to this sensation; however, as it is now, Jupiter has not been in retrograde in the sign of Capricorn in twelve years! What does this mean? The sign of Capricorn demands thought behind action and efficiency, and those extend to the Jupiter retrograde. This retrograde is asking us to build a solid foundation for our future. When Jupiter becomes direct again, it is likely- if we put in the work- we will see prosperity (Jupiter Retrograde Meaning & More.)

Saturn entered retrograde May 11th of this year and will remain retrograde until September 29th. Saturn is the karmic queen of the skies, urging us to examine our rights and wrongs, and pushing us to make amends with those we have harmed. This is the ideal time to reflect on our personal relationships carefully. Saturn, also, is the planet of success, especially long-term. This coupled with Jupiter's retrograde reminds us to dig deep to later reap what we have sown (Your Guide to 2020's Saturn Retrograde.)

It can be best summed up that Jupiter and Saturn retrogrades are the Universe pushing us to do what's right, not only for ourselves, but also others. Retrograde does not have to be a scary, panicked event at all; it could rather be viewed as a time of opportunity, a time to do the hard work to achieve the desired results our Higher Selves have long awaited.

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# THE HELIOS DIVINATION COLUMN

BY • VETURIUS

AUG 2020

## *Meow! The card of this issue is The Emperor!*

In the Fool's journey, the Emperor is depicted as the father figure as the Fool goes about his journey, teaching the latter a lesson on structure and authority. Possessing wise, regal, and intellectual characteristics, it makes sense for him to rule over the higher realms of wisdom and thought, leaving physical matters behind to focus on abstract concepts. This is usually a positive influence, as long as the effective hierarchy is understood and respected. Reversed, although it can represent a sign of benevolence and compassion, the Emperor can also pull you to use your authority in a reckless way. Associated with the element of fire, you can feel his fiery nature every time you think about him and his significance. Take note of your achievements and goals, and make the most of them as you go about your day.

## *August Horoscope*

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**Aries:** August finds you with especially creative ideas, dear Aries, and a motivated and confident disposition. It's an excellent time to thrive in competition, overcome challenges, or enjoy more intense, satisfying activities. You can be enthusiastic about making changes to a relationship, romance, or hobbies, or you might experience a new desire to move forward in these areas.

Standout days: 16, 17, 18

Challenging days: 4, 13, 24

**Taurus:** In August, great energy is with you for dealing with emotional or tricky areas, dear Taurus, and putting problems behind you. You can make some handy adjustments to your domestic world, or you're particularly enthusiastic about improving your personal life. If it takes a bit of extra energy to help you reduce stress all around, you're ready to put in the effort. Efforts made around the home, with domestic projects, and concerning activities with family, can lead to remarkable advances.

Standout days: 11, 18, 25

Challenging days: 2, 3, 30

**Gemini:** The month ahead is particularly strong for your communications and outlook, dear Gemini. Reaching out and connecting can bring unexpected opportunities to you. Learning and projects or personal interests are in good favor. Motivation returns or builds in August. You are bright and alert, ready to embrace change. You're in a primarily positive, action-oriented frame of mind, and you can be feeling refreshed and a little braver or more interested in seeing results. You may be jump-starting friendships. Increased clarity comes from a willingness to learn from others and encourage them to express themselves. Intellectual matters can thrive.

Standout days: 17, 25, 29

Challenging days: 1, 3, 30

PHOTO SOURCE: NUMEROLOGIST.COM



**Cancer:** You might often find yourself in the position to lead, manage, or take charge this month, and it goes rather smoothly, dear Cancer. Even so, there is a stronger focus on settling in and getting comfortable. Creative problem solving comes easily, particularly when you apply your thinking to practical and professional matters. You're more decisive and confident in August, although as the month progresses, your curiosity can diffuse your focus somewhat.

Standout days: 17, 18, 27

Challenging days: 1, 3, 4

**Leo:** You are likely to feel braver and more outgoing this month with the Sun in your sign until the 22nd and support from assertive Mars, dear Leo. You're more inclined to express your ideas and personality more freely. Your vision and intelligence empower you, and you seem to instinctively know that change is necessary so that you can improve, develop, and grow. Your good organizational capacities help you get things done with minimal interference and maximum respect.

Standout days: 16, 18, 25

Challenging days: 2, 3, 10



**Virgo:** August energies tend to boost your ability to observe and strategize, dear Virgo. Examining your past or private matters can figure strongly, but you're also finding more moments to socialize or enjoy yourself, particularly as the month advances. You're in great shape for cutting through appearances and uncovering something previously unknown or hidden. While you feel much more decisive than usual on an emotional level and benefit greatly from this clarity, the first half of August (at least) is strong for rest and regeneration.

Standout days: 25, 27, 29

Challenging days: 2, 4, 30

**Libra:** August is a fantastic month for getting things accomplished, dear Libra, and feeling more spirited and confident. It's a good time to embrace your need for others with an emphasis on your social and partnership sectors this month. Relationships or a special person can be a motivator, getting you going and firing you up. Healthy competition can fuel the desire to do your very best. Obstacles seem to fall out of the way as you approach life with increased confidence.

Standout days: 3, 17, 18

Challenging days: 1, 25, 30

**Scorpio:** August brings increased motivation and good energy for work-related matters, dear Scorpio. You apply yourself with purpose, confidence, and intent. It's a good month to make solid progress on practical matters. You might take particular pleasure in coming up with strategies, plans, and workable solutions to problems.

Standout days: 4, 16, 27

Challenging days: 2, 3, 14

**Sagittarius:** You're spirited and self-expressive this month, dear Sagittarius. Romantic prospects are good, although, in the coming months, you might be refining your approach to getting what you want in love. For the time being, a direct approach is in favor. Your spirit for adventure is running strong in August, and efforts put forth now can somehow leave you with more energy than when you started due to enthusiasm.

Standout days: 16, 17, 29

Challenging days: 4, 24, 25

**Capricorn:** You're in an unusually strong position for managing your emotions and personal life in August, dear Capricorn. Supportive transits connect your home and family sector with your intimacy sector this month. They help boost your stamina, motivation, and confidence levels with emotions and your inner or domestic world. Motivation is strong. Your emotional life is animated and energizing, and you seem to have the power to put problems behind you.

Standout days: 18, 25, 29

Challenging days: 1, 13, 24

**Aquarius:** August can find you in a generally upbeat, positive mood, dear Aquarius. You're quick to tackle problems, but you're also quite focused on your relationships, enjoying brainstorming and collaborating. It's a dynamic and energetic time for mental pursuits, interests, and projects. You especially enjoy sharing ideas.

Standout days: 3, 11, 17

Challenging days: 2, 10, 15

**Pisces:** You can experience a strong desire or drive to be efficient this month, dear Pisces. You seem to zip through challenges quickly and orderly, and your innovations are grounded in practical realities. Applying yourself to something constructive is satisfying. Putting in the effort to improve your daily routines is satisfying. You're less inclined to overthink and tend instead to throw yourself into your activities. You might feel some healthy competition that pushes you to new heights, and it feels good to rise to a challenge, especially one of your own making.

Standout days: 18, 27, 29

Challenging days: 4, 25, 30

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## Who is the cute cat above?

Your answer is right here! This is Helios, a bot dedicated to fulfilling your personal divination needs, whether it'd be reading a tarot spread or interpreting a rune in order to predict your fortune, and the best part: he does more than those with sharp accuracy.

Do you want to play with Helios? Then head over to the #helios channel on our official Discord server! You also have the ability to pet him, with a chance to gain his blessings.

# INSIDER SCOOP: AN INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER ZOSIMOS

BY • LYBERA

AUG 2020

*Hello, friends and fellow witches. This week, I had the pleasure of sitting down and chatting with an upcoming instructor for next trimester, Brother Zosimos.*

Here's the first insider information: Brother Zosimos will be teaching at least two classes- "Greek Language For Religious Use" and "Hellenic Olympian Cult Practice." Indulge in the juicy 411 below.

Lybera (LD): First thing's first, what drew you to RAMA?

Brother Zosimos (BZ): Someone [recommended] it to me! I run another Hellenic religion group on Discord where we do streamed religious services and educational activities, so I had been involved with teaching HelPol stuff already for several months. Someone who is in that group found RAMA, and [recommended] me to them. I received a message offer, researched the school, and really was just so impressed with it. So, I applied, took up the offer, and [I] have not regretted it since! I'm very excited and thrilled to have this opportunity, and I'm very grateful for it.

LD: So, do you personally practice HelPol? And if so, when and why did you get into that?

BZ: I do! I have been practicing Hellenism for over 8 years actually. I got into it at a really young age, because I come from a Greek family and I wanted to learn more about the faith and was already in love with the myths. So connecting to this religion was very important to me for those cultural reasons, and the longer I practice it, the more at home I feel with it. I'm very lucky to be able to share this with others and help them get involved with it too! It's a strong passion of mine.

LD: That's amazing and warming to hear. I was actually just about to ask if you were from a Greek family, but it seems you read my mind. Now, I am aware that you are teaching both Greek Language For Religious Use and Hellenic Olympian Cult Practice. Can you give us an idea or a little teaser about those courses? Please feel free to say as much or as little as you'd like.

BZ: For Hellenic Olympian Cult Practice, I really try to emphasize that this religion (at least, the modern revival of it) is so young and new that it really demands a lot of new worshippers. There is so much that goes into the process of "converting" and helping with revival efforts, so encouraging students to do their own research and use their abilities to learn on their own is super important! The class involves a ton of research,

and multiple projects! Students will really get the chance to implement the religion into their daily lives and discover how they feel about it, if it is right for them, and discover their own opinions on various issues that revival efforts are dealing with today.

For Greek Language For Religious Use, the class should be super fun and engaging for people who are serious about getting a head start in learning Greek. It is a Modern Greek class, not Ancient, but students will get pretty far in the language in a short period of time if they stay on top of their work. I'm currently around halfway through the course in making my lesson plans, and I was actually recently reflecting on how far they can get! By the end of it, students will be able to compose their own hymns and prayers totally in Modern Greek. Students can do creative projects, talk to their classmates, learn new words on their own, and there is a huge opportunity for extra credit should students choose to take up that offer. My goal is to immerse them in not only the language, but also the culture. We'll do a lot with Modern Greek music too!

I must admit that both classes are pretty demanding - I upload lessons twice a week, and there [are] a good amount of assignments. But for students who put in the effort and want to involve themselves in it, they will truly surprise themselves by how much they learn. I'm very excited to see how well they do.

LD: ευχαριστώ! Thank you for all that. I am definitely excited to hear about these courses, and I know so many others who will be eager to sign up. Those sound amazing. Alright, alright. Last question: Is there anything else that you want RAMA students to know about you?

BZ: Teaching has always been a passion of mine, and I'm honestly just thrilled to be able to share this with them. While there [are] a lot of assignments and demanding work, the goal of the classes is to express yourself and grow in your faith and abilities, not to intimidate or cause stress!!! I'm here to help students for their very first introduction to a new language and wonderful faith!

And there you have it, folks. Is anyone else extremely excited?

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# RAMA POLL EXCLUSIVE: CLOSING THE FIRST TRIMESTER

BY • VETURIUS

AUG 2020

PHOTO BY: VETURIUS



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There was a diverse selection of courses that a handful of students expressed their love in. Plant Magic was especially a popular course to talk about, with new knowledge that can be applied involving the use of plants around you. Herbology 101 assumes similar properties and concepts as well, utilizing mundane knowledge in order to see the herbs and its uses in such a unique way. Other notable classes include Potions 101, The Aduno Path, The Morrighan, Intro to Witchcraft, Alternative Divination, Working with Spirits, and Grimoire Work.

The students who participated in the poll also felt like their craft has improved, along with the fact that the lessons were informative and very well-explained. Some even expressed that after taking these classes, they found some interests in the topic when they dove in to the courses. On the next column are the words of two students that I found notable.

"All my classes were phenomenal this trimester, even the ones that had some bumps and I'm so thankful for all the knowledge I've gained! I wasn't really practicing hands on before this, so these classes have definitely helped to improve my craft just by getting me practicing and working through my fear/guilt that I'm just playing myself with all of this." - Fawn (she/her)

"I think I'd have to say Potions 101 is my favorite! I didn't even realize how interested I was in them before I took that course! Though I had vague knowledge on making them before, the course was full of so much great information to really refine that craft! Also, I love the way High Priestix El structures and writes their lessons so that's also a plus. I was also really enjoying Grimoire Work before it was cancelled and if the course was offered again I'd love to take it again." - Passerine (he/him)

# ABOUT THE TMJ STAFF

## *Editor Mouse*

Name: Mouse (He/They)  
Sun/Moon/Rising: Gemini Sun, Virgo Moon, Cancer Rising  
Likes: Theatre, mythology, comic writing  
Dislikes: Meat, most nostalgic snack foods, most nuts  
Talent: Natural talent for divination

## *Designer Veturius*

Name: Veturius (They/Them)  
Sun/Moon/Rising: Taurus Sun, Leo Moon, Aries Rising  
Likes: Music, roleplaying, reading, writing, nighttime  
Dislikes: Vinegar, not getting enough sleep, slow walkers  
Talent: Figure skating and creating fashion sketches

## *Writer Stella*

Name: Stella Marie (She/Her)  
Sun/Moon/Rising: Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, Aquarius Rising  
Likes: Dancing & racing  
Dislikes: Hot temperatures & tomatoes  
Talent: Can play eight instruments

## *Writer Thatcher*

Name: Thatcher (He/Him)  
Sun/Moon/Rising: Cancer Sun, Aquarius Moon, Virgo Rising  
Likes: Writing, gaming, furbies, dolls, and other odd crafting projects  
Dislikes: Haughty or dishonest people  
Talent: Hemomancy

## *Writer Lybera*

Name: Lybera (She/Her)  
Sun/Moon/Rising: Cancer Sun, Virgo Moon & Rising  
Likes: Animals, nature, soothing music, ASMR, intersectional feminism, carbs  
Dislikes: White feminism, salads  
Talent: I sing opera!

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# THE MIDNIGHT JOURNAL