

Total Lunar Eclipse May 15/16, 2022 Blood Supermoon and Demon Star Confronting World Karma



A total lunar eclipse occurs overnight May 15/16. The Full Moon will be in the stars of Libra 180° opposite the Sun just entering the stars of Taurus. As the title of this article suggests, there are some significant elements in this eclipse that can help us better understand it from a spiritual scientific perspective. They are the Moon in the stars of Libra; the Sun in line with the star Algol, Medusa's forehead in the constellation of Perseus, above Taurus; and Sun and Moon will form a T square relationship with the planet Saturn which is still in the stars of Capricorn. These create a cosmic picture in one moment in time as a gesture, a word, a challenge from the starry realm to humanity bearing meaning. How can we understand this meaning and meet it out of our spiritual activity? First, let us look clearly at this particular eclipse astronomically.

The map above shows its visibility in the Americas, Europe and Africa. It is the second eclipse of two eclipses in this eclipse season. The first was a partial solar eclipse on April 30th in the stars of Aries which was only visible on the southern tip of South America and Antarctica. There will be another lunar eclipse in November and another partial solar eclipse in October, which belong to the another eclipse "season" or series of 2022. Altogether 2022 brings four eclipses - two total lunar and two partial solar eclipses. A solar eclipse occurs at a New Moon while a lunar eclipse occurs at Full Moon.

This eclipse is a central total eclipse, meaning that the moon passes centrally through the axis of Earth's dark shadow. It also occurs when the Moon is almost in its Perigee, only about 1.5 degrees away, which is that point of the elliptical orbit of the Moon that is closest to the Earth. This means it will appear relatively large in the sky as a supermoon. It will also appear with a reddish tint, called a Blood Moon, due to refracted light from the Earth's atmosphere which will cast a reddish glow. The total eclipse on May 16th will be a Blood Supermoon Eclipse.

Below is the timing of this eclipse for those who wish to observe it. To find the exact timing of the eclipse in your location, go to: [Total Lunar Eclipse on May 15–16, 2022 – Where and When to See \(timeanddate.com\)](http://timeanddate.com)

Penumbral eclipse begins at 1:32 Universal time on May 16 (9:32 p.m. EDT on May 15).

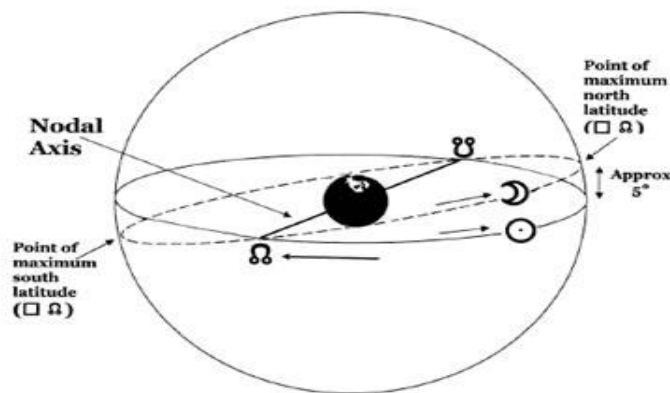
Partial eclipse begins at 2:27 Universal time on May 16 (10:27 p.m. EDT on May 15).

Totality begins (moon engulfed in Earth's shadow) begins at 3:29 Universal time on May 16 (11:29 p.m. EDT on May 15).

Maximum eclipse is at 4:12 Universal time on May 16 (12:12 a.m. EDT).

Duration of totality: About 85 minutes.

So, how does an eclipse occur? A lunar eclipse is an occultation of the Moon by the Earth so that the Earth blocks the light of the Sun from shining on the Moon, casting its shadow across the face of the Moon. A solar eclipse, at a New Moon, is the Moon passing directly between Earth and Sun, blocking the light of the Sun from shining onto the Earth. Of course, eclipses do not occur at every New Moon or Full Moon. A special cosmic relationship needs to occur for the Earth (or Moon) to be so directly in line to cast its shadow. We know that the Sun apparently moves along a particular orbit on the backdrop of the zodiac, which is called the ecliptic plane. (It is actually we who are moving and this plane is the Earth's orbit around the Sun.) The Moon also has an orbit which is not directly along the same plane but tilts about 5° to the ecliptic plane. So, usually a new or full moon happens somewhere along this tilt above or below the ecliptic plane, meaning they are not in a direct line to cause an occultation, so the light is not blocked. However, sometimes the Sun and Moon come into alignment (either conjunct or opposite) at the point where the orbit of the Moon and the path of the Sun intersect. Then they are on the same plane with each other and thus the occultation occurs where one planet blocks the light. These intersection points of the lunar orbital plane and the sun's orbital plane are called the lunar nodes. In astrology these nodes have deep spiritual significance as they are portals or doorways directly between the lunar sphere and the Sun/cosmic sphere through which can flow Sun forces or cosmic forces to the Earth unfiltered so to speak by the lunar sphere. This also applies to other planets and even starry forces through which these nodes provide an open door. This is part of what underlies the significance of the Moon Node return (meaning when the moon nodes return to the place at one's birth) which occurs at about the 18th year of age (as well as the opposite node return at about 9 years of age), which we know manifests in the soul/spiritual development of the human biography. These Moon Nodes fall backwards along the zodiac making a complete revolution in 18.6 years.



This brings us to the Saros cycle, which was known and worked with already in Chaldean times. As one can imagine, an eclipse was seen as a strong portent from the gods, so they were tracked and calculated as early as calculations began tracking star patterns. A Saros cycle is a period of approximately 18 years 11 days between particular eclipses, related to the movement of the lunar nodes. When two eclipses are separated by one Saros cycle, they share a very similar geometry. They occur at the same lunar

node, at about the same distance from Earth and at the same time of year. These Saros cycles can be organized into “families” which are called a Saros Series. A Saros Series lasts for 12 to 15 centuries with 70 or more lunar eclipses. So, we can see how a Series has a biography and life cycle, a birth and death between which it creates a regular movement and pattern on the Earth from one pole to the other. A deeper study of these Saros periods and Series can reveal this pattern almost as the biography of an eclipse being or entity which weaves or walks its life around the Earth sphere from pole to pole in its biography. The lunar and solar eclipse patterns are different. This particular lunar eclipse belongs to the series or entity Saros 131. It was “born” on May 10, 1427 as a penumbral eclipse near the southern edge of the penumbra and will “die” as a penumbral eclipse near the northern edge of the penumbra on July 7th, 2707. Its life span or total duration is 1280 years. This particular eclipse is number 34 of 72 in its biography. So, you could say it has reached full adulthood if one were to follow the biogenetic laws of development in which smaller cycles are mirrored in larger cycles of time. The human life span archetype of 72 years in which age 35 marks the birth of adulthood as consciousness soul perhaps is related to the Saros Series of 70-72 eclipses with this eclipse marking the 34th “year” of its biography. Some recent dates of its appearances have been in April/May of 1986 and 2004 and will continue in May/June of 2040 and 2058. As you can see, the series repeats about every 18 years but moves a bit forward in the calendar each time. The life cycle travels from penumbral eclipse, to partial eclipse to total eclipse which lasts for several cycles and then it begins to fade again in older age back to partial and then to penumbral eclipse. The full “adulthood” of total eclipses in this series spans from 1950 to 2220 with 15 total eclipses each about 18 years apart. So here we can get a glimpse into the macro cosmic rhythms in which we participate on Earth in the many eclipse entities and their patterns continually weaving around us. It can also reveal to us how limited is our consciousness in deeply understanding these eclipses and their life over centuries. But perhaps Rudolf Steiner’s description of the eclipses as “safety valves” in the cosmos, allowing dark or evil forces to either escape from the Earth and stream out to be balanced and absorbed by the solar realm or allowing evil darker impulses to stream into the Earth from the lunar sphere, gives us an idea of these ever moving eclipses around our globe in various eclipse entities.

Before going further into the spiritual perspective and understanding of this eclipse, we need to also consider the meaning of the Moon Nodes. There are two Moon nodes directly opposite each other. The one where the Moon traverses from south to north of Earth’s orbit or the ecliptic plane is called the ascending or north node, and the one from north to south is called the descending or south node. These each have different qualities spiritually. In earlier times the Nodes were seen as the head (north node) and tail (south node) of the Dragon. This eclipse will occur in the Descending/South Lunar Node, Cauda Draconis—the tail of the dragon which is now in the stars of Libra.

The image of the Dragon is of course common in many mythologies. In early Indian mythology and astrology, in a mythic tale contained in ancient Sanskrit texts, the lunar nodes are portrayed as the severed head and tail of a great dragon, called Rahu and Ketu, respectively. This association of the lunar nodes with the dragon were continued in medieval astrology and into modern astrology which connects the nodes with karma and past lives: the descending node more with untransformed karma from the past which presents challenges and the ascending node with that which is to be developed as future potential of the spirit’s evolution out of the transformed past karma. Modern astrology views the descending node or dragon’s tails as carrying the unconscious karmic forces and patterns from the past which often appear in life as destructive forces.

Perhaps many are familiar with the multi-layered Babylonian myth of Marduk (the Sun god, who is a Persian Michael figure) who slew Tiamet (both Mother and then Chaos who is portrayed in dragon/monster form). This theme of Michael and the dragon appears in our western Christology as St. George who slays the dragon, who is an earthly representative of Michael who defeats the dragon in the spiritual world and casts him to Earth. This great battle of Michael, the Sun being, and the dragon is

central to understanding our modern times and particularly the tasks of the age of Michael in which we now are living. Rudolf Steiner describes the great battle in the spiritual realms between Michael and the dragon forces which took place from 1840 until 1879, when Michael overcame the dragon and cast him out of the spiritual realm down to the earthly realm. This inaugurated the Michael Age of about 350 years in earthly history. Since then, the battle with the dragon takes place not in the spiritual heights but within humanity as our struggle with the dragon forces in our spiritual evolution out of the Christic Ego and in union with Michael, who administers the cosmic intelligence. Our task with Michael is to redeem fallen intelligence and elevate it again to cosmic intelligence through a path of the spiritualization of cognition, the path of anthroposophy.

In the heavens the constellation most associated with Michael is Libra, the Scales. If you look at the zodiac, Libra stands between the cosmic Sophia/Virgo and the Dragon/Scorpio, defending the Sophia against the dragon who seeks to devour the Child whom she is birthing. This picture comes from the Revelation of John. So, we can see in Libra, the constellation of Autumn, the imagination of Michael, holding the sword of truth and the scales of justice, the defender of cosmic intelligence who silently earnestly awaits our efforts to unite with the redemption of the fallen earthly intelligence. These are the stars in which the Moon stands at the time of this eclipse of May 16th. Here we have one piece of the larger picture we need to understand this eclipse and how we can meet it consciously as part of this Michael activity. We can add further images of the constellation of Libra to further expand an understanding of it. Libra is the constellation of the threshold in the human being in the region of the hips, the realm of balance, the region which is the boundary between the upper and lower human being, the threshold into the lower will human being, the more unconscious realm. For the sake of this article, the expansive understanding of Libra cannot be fully developed but it has a rich history in relation to Scorpio and Virgo and also carries the image of the grave/altar. Much could be said about Libra in regard to the Threshold experience in humanity. For now, let us hold the image of the eclipsed Moon in the descending lunar node, the dragon's tail, the node of untransformed karma of the past, which one can say potentially releases destructive or darkened thoughts and will impulses out of the unconscious. This is in the stars of Libra, the stars of Michael, the stars of the threshold, the balance standing between the cosmic intelligence and the dragon forces in human thinking and willing.

How does Rudolf Steiner speak of eclipses? In a lecture, Human Questions and Cosmic Answers, he describes both solar and lunar eclipses. Of a lunar eclipse he says:
And again, when there is an eclipse of the moon, the man of today merely says: "Now the earth comes between the sun and the moon; hence we see the shadow cast upon the moon by the earth." That is the physical explanation. But in this case also the old initiate knew that a spiritual reality was behind the physical fact. He knew that when there is an eclipse of the moon, thoughts stream through darkness down upon the earth; and that such thoughts have a closer relationship with the subconscious life than with the conscious life of the human being. The old initiates often made use of a certain simile when speaking to their pupils. It is, of course, necessary to translate their words into modern language, but this is the gist of what they said: "Visionaries and dreamers love to go for rambles by moonlight, when the moon is full. There are, however, certain people who have no wish to receive the good thoughts coming to them from the cosmos, but who, on the contrary, are desirous of getting hold of evil, diabolical thoughts. Such people will choose the moment of a lunar eclipse for their nocturnal wanderings."
He continues in the same lecture to describe these eclipses as necessary and provided by the higher beings as "safety valves", as a kind of needed outlet that helps keep cosmic order.
The other safety-valve, the lunar eclipse, exists for the purpose of allowing the evil thoughts which are present in the cosmos to approach those human beings who are desirous of being possessed by them. In matters of this kind people do not, as a rule, act in full consciousness, but the facts are nevertheless real.

So, let us further build the imagination for this eclipse. We have now this picture of the lunar eclipse as allowing for evil thoughts in the cosmos to stream in to human beings. We have the picture of the lunar nodes and the dragon, and this eclipse taking place in the south or descending node, the dragon's tail, carrying the untransformed forces from past karma. We have the fact that the Moon is eclipsed when in the stars of Libra, the stars of Michael, the threshold between the higher and lower in us. The Sun is blocked by the Earth passing directly between Sun and Moon to create the eclipse, and stands just in the beginning of the stars of Taurus, the constellation of the Word in its macrocosmic aspect. But significantly for this article and the eclipse, the Sun is conjunct longitudinally (1° away) from a star above Taurus in the constellation of Perseus (a Michael figure). It is the star Algol, which is eye or forehead of Medusa. We know the story of Medusa, a beautiful gorgon maiden who became a dark creature, with serpents for hair and whose gaze was so terrifying that it turned all who looked upon her to stone. In the Iliad she is described as "the Gorgon's head, a ghastly sight, deformed and dreadful, and a sign of woe."



Caravaggio painting



Algol, in astronomy, is a bi-nary star, meaning two stars that rotate around each other, one larger and brighter than the other, so that it appears to “wink” in the sky, going brighter then dimmer in a cycle lasting a bit under 3 days. This has been called the Winking Demon. However its name Algol, comes from the Arabic, Al Ghul which literally means a mischief-maker, but became later to mean the Demon’s Head. The Hebrews knew it as Rosh ha Satan, Satan’s Head. The Chinese name for Algol meant “piled up corpses”. And it has also been associated with Lilith, the legendary evil first wife of Adam. (from *Star Names: Their Lore and Meaning*, Richard Hinckley Allen, 1889) It has been viewed by astrologers throughout history as the most evil and dangerous star in the heavens, often associated with violence, brutality and sudden death or murder.

A final interesting element of the story of Medusa is her association with the birth of Pegasus. In one story it is told she was the mother of Pegasus when she was a beautiful maiden. In another version it is told that from her decapitation by Perseus, Pegasus arose from her blood. In either case, there is this fascinating relationship between the gaze that turns all things to stone, perhaps a picture of a type of a thinking that kills the living thought and turns all to stone, and the winged intelligence of Pegasus. For those who read one of my recent articles, you will remember the image in the stars connected with the Perseus story and Medusa, of Pegasus arising from the forehead of Andromeda. So, in this complex of constellations around the Perseus story we have both the star Algol in the forehead of Medusa, the demon star of destruction and violence which turns all to stone, as well as the star Alpheratz in the forehead of Andromeda, which is also the navel of Pegasus, representing the new, winged intelligence arising from the redeemed or “saved” soul Andromeda, who is freed from the chains of the rock (stone). All of this is powerful imaginations for us carried in the stories of the stars out of an earlier intelligence.

But now if we return to this eclipse we can add another element to the imagination now composed of the darkened Moon in the dragon’s tail descending node, in the stars of Libra and the Sun directly opposite, which is darkened as it stands aligned with the Demon Star of Medusa, Algol.

The third element of the title of this article, “confronting world dark karma” brings us to add to this line of Libra/Moon and Sun/Algol another line which creates what is called a T-square, meaning two right angles or square aspects of 90° to this eclipse. Saturn stand exactly at a 90-degree square angle to both Moon and Sun at the time of the eclipse, creating the bottom line of the T. This square aspect is a Martian aspect of war/confrontation/aggression, as well as materialism. We have gone into depth with Saturn and Mars in various articles, but briefly for this article let us remind ourselves that Saturn is the bearer of world karma, the memory of all the past and how it must be taken up. It is the realm of the Father will of the Divine Plan for evolution from which we have wandered but which must be reckoned with, which is the purpose of karma, to bring us again in line with our higher plan, both world and individual karma. So, at this precise moment the Moon and Earth and Sun line up in a lunar eclipse just in square relation to Saturn in Capricorn, the same constellation in which it was at the Great Conjunction of 2020, the constellation of initiation and catharsis. When one lives with the rhythms in the heavens, these kinds of gestures can be awe inspiring to see and hear the language of the stars revealed. Here we have a cosmic word, a cosmic picture, a cosmic statement to humanity. We are being challenged by this word: “Come to terms with the consequences of the past, the descent into materialism, the darkness and destruction that have resulted from our failure to awaken to the spiritual realities!” This word rings out in many manifestations which are clearly visible in our world today. The bi-nary demon star and the darkened Moon in the stars of the threshold are in a square, confrontation with world karma. Without anthroposophy and the knowledge of Michael and Christ, this is a dark and violent configuration. However, with a knowledge of the presence and activity of Michael in our time out of the transformative power of Christ, we can very consciously meet this eclipse with our new thinking.

My suggestion for the time of this eclipse whenever it is happening in your time zone, is to be spiritually conscious! For those approximate 85 minutes, vividly picture Michael overcoming the dragon forces with the darkened Moon in Libra as well as in the image of Perseus/Michael opposite holding the severed head of Medusa to rescue Andromeda, the human soul, so that the new thinking, the living winged intelligence can be born. This can lead to inspiration and christened thoughts that can meet the dark thoughts and will impulses streaming in during this time of the eclipse. If this is done out of Christ even by only a few, it has power over the many of the darkness.

In the Gospel of John, Chapters 15 and 16, Christ is speaking to his disciples at the last supper about the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. He speaks to them about the suffering and attacks that will come and how he must leave them so that the Holy Spirit can come, meaning so that they can experience and realize Him within themselves. He speaks about the task of the Holy Spirit: "When He comes, He will call mankind to account for the decline into sinfulness (separation), for the working of Man's higher being and for the great world-separation." He continues with, "In the world you have much hardship and tribulation, but take courage, I AM has overcome the world."

In this current Easter season as we approach Ascension and Whitsun and the time of the awakening of the Holy Spirit, we can bring to our hearts the certainty and the confidence out of the Holy Spirit in us to the night of this eclipse. We can even read the 16th Chapter of John and meditate on the ever present work of Michael with us, if we do our part.

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