Introducing the Venus Cycle
And The Importance of the Eight Year Return

The following pages contain information that will help you understand the Venus cycle, its importance to our collective experience and how it relates to our collective and personal relationship with the initiation cycles of Venus. Additionally, on the last page there is a table provided that will help you find your own Venus Overtone.

There is another PDF that has the current Venus cycle dates that will assist you in tracking the phases of Venus and noticing how they operate in your life. If you are in a Venus return the dates given are powerful ceremonial times to connect with during your initiation process. If you are not in a Venus return it is helpful to become familiar with the cycle so when you do enter your Venus return you already know how to work with these energies and the Timings in ways that support you in gaining the maximum benefits of the cycle. Tracking the planetary cycles and working with them ceremonially was one of the ways ancient people maintained their connection with the sacred wholeness of life.

The cycle of Venus was honored by many ancient cultures. The Mayans calculated the Venus cycle with such remarkable precision that it still baffles current day researchers. The builders of New Grange in Ireland were known as the Grooved Ware people. This was a Neolithic culture with a remarkable balance between the masculine and feminine principles, and research suggests they had technology that predated the Egyptians and Greeks. New Grange was built to track the Winter Solstice and the once in 8 year heliacal rise of Venus near the Winter Solstice when Venus rises about a half hour before the Sun. The last time this occurred was the December Solstice 2009. The next time it will occur will be the December Solstice 2017.

At New Grange, the long dark passage that leads to a special altar is lit annually by the Winter Solstice Sun. Every 8 years, near the December Solstice, Venus rises before the Sun and lights the passage way all the way back to the main altar, then about a half hour later the Sun rises and relights the passage and altar. The double lighting of the passage and altar every eight years is a remarkable engineering feat that also tells us these people were very intimate with the Venus cycle and held in high regard. The expertise needed to build New Grange to capture these recurring cosmological events with such precision is worthy of our admiration and attention.

The builder’s of Solomon’s temple were tracking the heliacal rise of Venus before the Sun at the Spring and Autumnal Equinox. Solomon’s temple was inspired by the Sumerian and Babylonians who according to Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas authors of The Book of Hiram were inspired by the Grooved Ware people. The Sumerians and Babylonians celebrated with high ceremony the cycle of Venus every eight years when she rose as a morning star near the Spring Equinox. The cosmological story of Inanna and/or Ishtar assisted them in ceremonially engaging the astronomical cycle of Venus.

Part of the work of Shamanic Astrology at this time is to reconnect with the Venus cycle, honoring and remembering how this cycle informs our experience. Each one of us is born in a particular phase of the Venus Cycle and we all experience a Synodic Venus return every 8 years. This means that Venus returns to her original position with the Sun near your birthday at ages 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, 88, 96, 104. Shamanic Astrology recognizes the Venus Return as one of the most significant cycles a person goes through and the power of this cycle is maximized when we work with it consciously.

When Venus returns with the Sun near our birthday (every eight years) we are moving to a yet higher octave of the feminine expression we came to experience. For women it is their emerging feminine identity for this life, what aspect of the Goddess they have come to explore, express and help evolve. For men this is their connection to the sacred feminine and what they intend to integrate as their inner other or inner beloved. The Eight Year Synodic Venus Return Cycle is a powerful initiation time intended to deepen our experience as well as be a part of the evolution of these divine feminine archetypal energies.
Additional Venus Facts and Information

Venus has been called Earth’s sister planet because not only is she the closest planet to Earth, Venus is the closest to the same size as the Earth than any other planet being about 86% of the size of Earth with a similar density and chemical composition, and appearing to be near the same age as Earth.

Venus is a mirror to Earth as demonstrated in her planetary rotations, rotating West to East opposite of Earth. Venus makes one full rotation every 243 days.

In 243 years Venus rotates 365 times.

Earth rotates 365 times in one year

and there are 243 years between the Venus transits over the Sun in the same area of the sky.

The All Important Venus Transits (when Venus is seen crossing the Face of the Sun)

June 8, 2004 Venus was literally seen crossing the facing of the Sun. The last time this occurred was 122 years prior on December 6, 1882. Then eight years later Venus again transited the Sun on June 5/6, 2012. These transits happen in a rhythmic pattern as indicated in the chart below.

The 2004 Transit began an eight year global initiation and awakening of humanity beyond anything we have previously experienced. This is partly due to the Venus passages occurring at the Galactic edge (the edge of our Galaxy near the Galactic Cross) letting us know that this initiation reaches beyond our Galaxy and extends far into the Universe.

During the Venus transit over the Sun in both 2004 and 2012, Venus had direct access to the source of light and life for planet Earth and because the Sun is also a gateway Venus had direct access to the light codes of information beaming in from beyond our galaxy. The place in the sky where Venus transited the Sun has also been seen as an entry point or gateway into this reality.

During the Venus transit, she was visible to us as she crossed the face of the Sun representing the visual return of the powerful Solar Feminine adding her strength and wisdom that had mainly been acknowledged through the Lunar Feminine.

The Venus transit over the Sun acted as a visible empowerment of Venus and the Solar Feminine as Venus was seen crossing the Sun. One of the ways to amplify our connection with this powerful activation is to take time to visually connect with Venus in the Morning and Evening Sky as well as tuning into her long underworld journey when she is traveling with the Sun.

On June 5/6, 2012 Venus completed her eight year initiatory window that began in June of 2004. The table below is a way to gain a perspective of the intervals between Venus transits over the Sun. Notice the Venus Transit in 1761 and 2004 are in the same area of the sky and 243 years have passed. And the Venus transit of 1769 was in the same area of the sky as the 2012 transit 243 years later. Also notice the rhythmic intervals between Venus Transits, always eight years apart and always in the seasonal sign of either Sagittarius or Gemini at least over the course of years represented in this table.

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The June 7, 2004 and June 5, 2012 Venus passages over the Sun activated a Venus Stargate that birthed a whole other octave of the powerful feminine in this reality.

The exact 26,000 year Galactic Alignment we are currently experiencing began when the Solstice points moved within one degree of the two Galactic Crosses (where the Ecliptic or plane of the Solar System and the Milky Way or Plane of the Galaxy intersect). Based on the calculations of astronomer Jean Muess, we entered the one degree zone in 1926 and will leave the one degree zone in 2070. He calculated the exact center point to be May, 1998 giving us a 144 year window. Even if we only look at a 72 year window that is happening from 1962 to 2034. The 36 year window is from 1987 to 2016 covering the most precise time when the Sun is squarely on the Galactic Cross. That means the Venus transits occurred in the closet points to the Galactic Alignment that are possible in the current 26,000 year cycle giving us a sense of an even greater importance of these events.

In addition to the connection with the Galactic Alignment the Venus Passages occurred between the Horns of the Bull (a.k.a the constellation of Taurus) near the Galactic Edge. Ancient cultures looked to this area of the sky for special Celestial Events to let them know when the ages were shifting. The information below is gleaned from many scholarly works on the constellations and has been compiled by Anne Wright at this link http://www.constellationsofwords.com/Constellations/Taurus.html

The Great Bull of Heaven is linked with the end of each of the four ages; (the bull it is said) withdraws one of its hooves from the ground. When all are free the foundations of the world will be destroyed. Shiva's 'perfect horn' is the crescent Moon. The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. 'aleph, which means "bull", is the symbol of the moon in its first week and also the name of the sign of the zodiac where the moon's mansions begin' (ELIT p.178). Many letters of the alphabet, hieroglyphs and ideograms are simultaneously associated with the phases of the Moon and with the bull's horns, the latter often compared with the crescent Moon.

Additionally Bernadette Brady a well-known researcher on the historical astronomical influence of Venus describes her Morning Star or Evening Star apparition and its influence on the United States elections process. Bernadette tracked the Morning Star elections and found that in all but two cases since the beginning of our election process the victory went to the "one who held the crown" meaning either a re-election or the election went to the same party.

In the Evening Star appearance of Venus during an election Venus favors the Rival. In November 2008 Venus was an Evening Star and the election was won by the party that was not in power. In 2012 Venus was a morning star and Obama was re-elected. http://www.zyntara.com/VisualAstrologyNewsletters/van_Sept2008/VAN_Sept2008.htm

It is NOT important to understand all this technical information about the Turning of the Ages and how the Venus Transit is a major player at this time. What is important is to have a sense that we are NOT in ordinary times and the way we know is this is based on what is happening in our world is a reflection of what is happening in the sky and that is a reminder that we inform the mysteries as much as they inform us so working with these cycles consciously assists us in being conscious co-creators.

Ancient Cultures throughout the world left monumental records in stone pyramids, stone circles, stone temples, petroglyph sites and other structures to remind us of the importance of our connection to the Celestial Realms. The Celestial Timings and the tracking of the Venus Cycle are one way to tune into these celestial events. When we connect either visually or through our awareness and ceremonies and prayers to the these mysteries we are engaging an ancient practice that benefits us personally as well as the entire collective at this important Turning of the Ages. (see www.cayelincastell.com for details about subscribing to the Celestial Timings)

This gives us another way to view the power of tracking the Venus cycle on a collective scale as well as for our own personal initiation intended to deepen our relationship with the Divine Feminine.

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The Venus Gates
Condensed from the Sumerian Telling
of Inanna Queen of Heaven

Inanna (Venus) sets out for the Underworld to attend the funeral of the Great Bull of Heaven and her sister Erishkegal’s husband. She dresses in her full ceremonial regalia and is forced to give up something at each gate she encounters on her journey to the Underworld.

Venus/Inanna going through the Gates.

Inanna at the first gate, the Gate of Authority, surrenders the shugurra, the crown of the steppe, symbolizing being stripped of her connection to her godhood, her connection to heaven, her divinity.

The second gate, the Gate of Perception... the lapis measuring rod and line are removed from hand (or in other versions of the story she surrenders her small lapis bead earrings) as she is stripped of her sense of magic and her ability to manifest.

The third gate, The Gate of Communication... she surrenders the Double stranded beads around her neck –releasing all the ways she no longer communicates the truth and authenticity of her being.

The fourth gate, The Gate of Compassion... she surrenders her breastplate called "Come, man, come!" symbolizing her emotional heart and the release of all the ways she no longer truly loves herself.

The fifth gate, The Gate of Personal Power... the Golden hip girdle from her waste (or in other version the gold ring around her wrist) is removed. – and she is stripped of all the ways she tried to have power over others or gave her power away.

The sixth gate, The Gate of Creativity, her ankle bracelets are removed and she was stripped of all the ways she no longer truly valued herself.

The seventh gate, The Gate of Manifestation... From her body the royal robe, also referred to as the Garment of ladyship, was removed stripping Inanna of her life force.

Thus she arrived in the underworld stripped bare of all her garments of protection that no longer served her.

Ereshkigal kills Inanna and hangs her corpse on a meat hook.

Ninshubar gets Enki to sending two emissaries or androgynous beings called a kalatur and a kurgarra. They have been given instructions to hear Ereshkigal’s pain and name it back to her. Wisely this action heals depression, hurt and anger when we can name and witness our pain without judgment or a need to fix, change or make it be different than what it is.
When the kalatur and karugurra witness Ereshkigal’s pain she is miraculously healed. In her gratitude she gives Inanna to Enki’s emissaries and they revive her with the water and food of life. Inanna awakes and begins her departure back through the seven gates collecting her vestments symbolizing her renewal and rebirth.

**At the first gate** - The Gate of Manifestation, which had been the last gate she passed through on her way into the underworld she retrieves her royal robe, or Garment of ladyship, reclaiming the healthy potency of her own life force expression.

**The second gate** - The Gate of Creativity, she retrieves her ankle bracelets symbolizing a renewed and healthy connection to her value and self worth.

**The third gate** - The Gate of Personal Power, the Golden hip girdle from her waste or the golden ring around her wrist is returned and she reclaims her personal power.

**The fourth gate** - The Gate of Compassion, she retrieved her breastplate called "Come, man, come!" symbolizing the healing of her emotional heart and her renewed ability to truly love herself and thus love others.

**The fifth gate** - The Gate of Communication... she retrieves the Double stranded beads around her neck – reclaiming healthy authentic communication of her true self.

**The sixth gate** - the Gate of Perception... she regained the lapis measuring rod and line or the small lapis bead earrings – and reclaims her sense of magic and ability to manifest.

**The seventh gate** - the Gate of Authority, Inanna retrieves the shugurra, the crown of the steppe, symbolizing her reconnection to heaven, her divinity and her godhood.

**Innana ascended** - returning to the heavens - reclaiming her place as Queen of Heaven and Earth, but now she had the knowledge and experience of pain and darkness, having experienced them for herself.

The Wisdom that originally orchestrated her descent into the underworld also arranged her return. After passing through the seven gateways Inanna encountered all her shadowed parts, the uncertainties of who she really was. All her tools were stripped from her and she was required to die (surrender) to who she believed herself to be.

This is the underworld initiation of death and rebirth that we all encounter. This is the gift of Inanna’s journey that reminds us it is through the wisdom of surrender and trusting the death and rebirth process that brings us through this passage to a whole new more empowered and magical way of being. And so it IS!!!!
The Venus Cycle
Where was Venus in the Story When you were Born?

Venus has a 584 Day cycle from Heliacal Rise to Heliacal Rise (rising before the Sun in this case when Venus is Retrograde)

1. Venus spends 40 Days retrograde moving from evening star to morning star

2. During her retrograde phase Venus conjuncts the Sun and a few days later rises as a Morning Star beginning a new 584 day cycle.

3. Venus rises before the Sun (heeliacal rise) and then spends 260 Days as a Morning Star with 7 to 8 Moon conjunctions

As a Morning Star Venus (a.k.a Inanna or Ishtar) begins her descent into the underworld. She meets with the waning Moon 7 times going through the 7 gates into the underworld. At Each Gate she gives up a vestment associated with the 7 chakras and is releasing any distortions linked with these chakra energies.

Gate 1 – crown chakra - The Gate of Authority
Gate 2 – brow chakra - The Gate of Perception
Gate 3 – throat chakra - The Gate of Communication
Gate 4 – heart chakra - The Gate of Compassion
Gate 5 – solar plexus - The Gate of Personal Power
Gate 6 – belly chakra - The Gate of Creativity
Gate 7 – root chakra - The Gate of Manifestation
Gate 8- The Death by Intent Gate

4. Venus joins the Sun for 60 to 90 Days. This is the Underworld phase. Inanna dies and then is reborn 60 to 90 days later after she meets with the Sun or source of life. Dying to her old self and preparing to be reborn anew.

5. Venus rises as Evening star with 7 to 8 conjunctions with the Moon Venus meets with the waxing Moon returning through the seven gates in the reverse order now Transformed and Empowered from her initiation and she regains her Vestments.

Gate 1 – root chakra - The Gate of Manifestation
Gate 2 – belly chakra - The Gate of Creativity
Gate 3 – solar plexus - The Gate of Personal Power
Gate 4 – heart chakra - The Gate of Compassion
Gate 5 – throat chakra - The Gate of Communication
Gate 6 – brow chakra - The Gate of Perception
Gate 7 – crown chakra - The Gate of Authority
Gate 8 – The Ascension Gate or Life by Intent


Venus Retrogrades (40 days) and disappears from the Evening Sky. 7 to 8 day meeting with the Sun and emerges in the Morning Sky as a whole new Archetype of the Feminine.

If you get a Venus Specific Session (see details on page 7) you will be given the information about where Venus was in the Sky at the time you were born and what that means. For example, Venus in the Morning Sky has a certain energy that is different from Venus in the Evening Sky or with Sun.

Your Venus Overtone is Aries, Scorpio, Gemini, Capricorn, Leo, Virgo, Aquarius, Cancer (circle the one that is appropriate...this is the sign Venus was in when she rose as a morning star before your birthday).

When you were born... Venus was Retrograde, Retrograde with the Sun, Morning Star, with the Sun, or Evening Star. (circle the ones that apply). Venus returns near the birthday every eight years or age 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, 88, 96 etc... This cycle can begin as much as 18 months prior to the exact return or can begin within days of the 8 year birthday.
The January 17, 2014 to August 20, 2015 Venus Cycle

Venus has a 584 Day cycle from Heliacal Rise to Heliacal Rise (rising before the Sun in this case when Venus is Retrograde). Venus stations retrograde on Dec 22, 2014 at 29 Capricorn and disappears from the evening sky on January 5, 2014 at 25 Capricorn.

Venus Spends 40 Days retrograde moving from evening star to morning star

During her retrograde phase Venus conjuncts the Sun and a few days later rises as a Morning Star beginning a new 584 day cycle. Venus conjuncts the Sun on January 11, 2014 at 21 Capricorn.

Venus rises before the Sun (heliacal rise) and then spends 260 Days as a Morning Star with 7 to 8 Moon conjunctions. Heliacal rise of Venus January 17, 2014 at 18 Capricorn and stations direct on January 31, 2014 at 13 Capricorn 33 in the degree of the Grand Cross exact on April 22 or 23 depending on your time zone.

Morning Star Venus (a.k.a Inanna or Ishtar) begins her descent into the underworld. She meets with the waning Moon 7 times (sometimes 8 times) going through the 7 gates into the underworld. At each Gate she gives up a vestment associated with the 7 chakras and is releasing any distortions linked with these chakra energies.

Gate 1 – crown chakra - The Gate of Authority (removing her crown) Feb 25, 2014 at 24 Capricorn
Gate 2 – brow chakra - The Gate of Perception (removing her royal staff) Mar 27, 2014 at 20 Aquarius
Gate 3 – throat chakra - The Gate of Communication (removing her necklace) Apr 25, 2014 at 22 Pisces
Gate 4 – heart chakra - The Gate of Compassion (removing her breast plate) May 25, 2014 at 26 Aries
Gate 5 – solar plexus - The Gate of Personal Power (removing her ring of power) June 24, 2014 at 01 Gemini
Gate 6 – belly chakra - The Gate of Creativity (removing her ankle bracelets) July 24, 2014 at 07 Cancer
Gate 7 – root chakra - The Gate of Manifestation (removing her royal robe) Aug 23, 2014 at 14 Leo
Gate 8 – The Death by Intent Gate

Venus joins the Sun for 60 to 90 Days. This is the Underworld phase. Inanna dies and then is reborn 60 to 90 days later after she meets with the Sun or source of life. Dying to her old self and preparing to be reborn anew. Venus disappears from morning sky September 16, 2014 at 14 Virgo and meets with the Sun on 10/24/2014 at 02 Scorpio

Venus rises as Evening Star on December 04, 2014 at 22 Sagittarius

As Evening Star Venus meets with the waxing Moon 7 to 8 times returning through the seven gates in the reverse order now Transformed and Empowered from her initiation as she regains her Vestments

Gate 1 – root chakra - The Gate of Manifestation (regaining her royal robe) Dec 22, 2014 at 16 Capricorn
Gate 2 – belly chakra - The Gate of Creativity (regaining her ankle bracelets) Jan 21, 2015 at 23 Aquarius
Gate 3 – solar plexus - The Gate of Personal Power (regaining her ring of power) Feb 20, 2015 at 00 Aries
Gate 4 – heart chakra - The Gate of Compassion (regaining her breast plate) Mar 22, 2015 at 07 Taurus
Gate 5 – throat chakra - The Gate of Communication (regaining her necklace) Apr 21, 2015 at 12 Gemini
Gate 6 – brow chakra - The Gate of Perception (regaining her royal staff) May 21, 2015 at 15 Cancer
Gate 7 – crown chakra - The Gate of Authority (regaining her crown) Jun 20, 2015 at 13 Leo
Gate 8 – The Ascension Gate (Life by Intent) July 18, 2015 at 00 Virgo

Venus begins her retrograde phase in the Evening Sky. Jul 25, 2015 at 00 Virgo

Venus is retrograde for 40 days and disappears from the Evening Sky on Aug 09, 2015 at 27 Leo. Then Venus travels with the Sun for 7 to 8 day meeting with the Sun and exactly conjuncts at 23 Leo on Aug 15, 2015. Venus emerges in the Morning Sky on Aug 21 at 19 Leo as a whole new Archetype of the Feminine, a.k.a the Heliacal Rise of Venus and the start of a new cycle.

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The Archetypal Rebirth Journey of Venus at Heliacal Rise

These are the approximate dates for the Heliacal Rise of Venus calculated for 10 degrees from the Sun. Bold Dates Indicate Archetypal Shift to a New Sign in 5 Star Pattern of Venus.

Color code is as follows: Cancer Can and Gemini Gem (White), Aquarius Aqu and Capricorn Cap (Purple), Virgo Vir and Leo Leo (Green), Aries Ari and Pisces Pis (Red), Scorpio Sco and Libra Lib (Blue).

Look for the Venus Cycle that began prior to your birthdate to find your Venus Overtone. So for example, if a person was born in January of 1956, they would use the Nov 21, 1954 Overtone of Venus in Scorpio. If a person was born in August of 1956, they would use the June 28, 1956 Venus Overtone of Gemini.

The overtone of Venus is secondary to the sign Venus was in at the time you were born. The Overtone tells us what archetype of the feminine was being integrated into the collective psyche of humanity at the time you were born so it adds an additional flavor to your personal Venus, as does knowing where Venus was in her cycle at the time you born. Venus as morning or evening star or near the Sun or in one of its three retrograde phases as evening, with the Sun, or Morning star all has significance and additional meaning that we can incorporate into our overall understanding of your personal Venus.

To locate your next Venus return - look for the color coded date just before your birthday that matches your Venus Overtone up to 2030 and then look for that color coding for the next time you begin a Venus return. Note that in the next couple of cycles Venus will be shifting signs from Scorpio to Libra in 2018 and from Aries to Pisces in 2025. These dates are within a day of the actual heliacal rise. The bolded dates show a shift in sign.

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<td>07 Vir</td>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>25 Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>19 Ari</td>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>26 Leo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Special Venus Reading focuses specifically on your natal Venus and Overtone, as well as where you were born into the Greater Venus Story and how to work with that. A 90 minute Venus session special rate is $277 regularly $397.

Cayelin K Castell www.cayelin castell.com
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Venus Heliacal Rises from 2012 to 2020
Forming a Pentagram in the Sky

January 17, 2014
18 Capricorn

January 16, 2022
15 Capricorn

April 1, 2017
1 Aries

Jan 17, 2014
18 Capricorn

Jan 16, 2022
15 Capricorn

Nov 04, 2010
2 Scorpio
8 years later
Nov 02, 2018
29 Libra

June 12, 2012
12 Gemini
8 years later
June 10, 2020
10 Gemini

Aug 23, 2015
18 Leo
Below are two images of the Venus Pentagram as traced through the Sky.

The Left Image below is the Venus Pattern showing 5 Cycles of Venus in 8 years returning to a starting point within 2 days of the starting point 8 years earlier.

The right image is the pattern Venus makes over 1260 years to return to an exact starting point.

In the images above we can see the Magic of the Venus cycle as Venus returns to a starting point every eight years, as it rises heliacally 5 times creating the pentagram and also goes around the Sun 13 times in that 8 year period. This remarkably includes the Fibonacci sequence found throughout creation 5, 8, 13.

That is why ancient cultures were so attuned to the Venus cycle and why it is important for us to reconnect to Venus magic now.

Again...if you are interested in learning more about your personal Venus, what it means for you personally and how to work with the Venus cycle as a way to empower your co-creative process then a Special Venus Specific Session is extremely helpful. The special Venus session rate is $277 regularly $397. Email Cayelin at p3@shamanicastrology.com to find out more or to schedule your session.

Get the Celestial Timings for $59 and Save $13 off the annual rate. The Written Daily Timings are posted Monthly and you get access to at least 5 new Audios each month with a library of over 100 audios on topics like Pluto in Capricorn, Saturn in Scorpio, Uranus in Aries, Fixed Stars like Spica and Kambalia and much much more. Details and sign-up are at this [LINK](http://www.cayelincastell.com).