

Weekly Exploration: The Golden Gate and Silver Gate

Course Notes

The Two Gates

Essential Info: The Golden Gate and Silver Gate are two areas in the sky of tremendous power. The Silver Gate is located between the constellations Taurus and Gemini, and the Golden Gate is located between Sagittarius and Scorpio. And on days when the Moon or Sun move through them, interesting things happen, and spiritual energies are heightened.

Optional Info (astronomical definition): The Golden Gate and Silver Gate are located at two points where the ecliptic (the path that the Sun, Moon and planets move along; i.e. the flat plane of the solar system) intersects with the plane of our galaxy (which appears to us from the Earth as a ribbon of stars and “cloudiness”: the Milky Way). These two pathways in the sky intersect at only two spots: the gates. And at those two “gates” the Moon, Sun, and planets cross the ribbon of the Milky Way over the course of the year. The Moon crosses through each gate once per month, and the Sun passes through each gate once per year. The two crossing places are located at opposite ends of the sky from each other.

Ancient Knowledge

In the 3rd century AD a neoplatonist by the name of Porphyry wrote about the gates in his text, “On the Cave of the Nymphs”. He attested that, through the Silver Gate, the souls of humans descended and ascended into and out of our reality. Through the Golden Gate, he wrote that the gods could move into and out of our reality.

Humanity’s knowledge of the gates is ancient. The Silver Gate and Golden Gate are depicted on ancient Egyptian pottery, and the “keys to heaven” as depicted on the Vatican’s coat of arms are a silver key and a golden key (no doubt a reference to their power to open the silver and the golden gates of the “heavens” above).

Activating the Gates

Essential Info: We have found through experience and research that the gates are primarily activated by either the Sun or Moon passing through them. Through the course of a month the Moon activates a gate twice (passing through the Silver Gate once, and Golden Gate once). Twice a year the Sun activates a gate. These solar activations happen to now fall very close to the Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice. Around the Summer Solstice the Sun moves through the Silver Gate. Around the Winter Solstice the Sun moves through the Golden Gate.

Strange Energies

If you start tracking your experiences with days in which the Sun or Moon are in the gates, you may find that you encounter strange energies. These are good days to cleanse and protect your home, as you don't know what might be coming through those gates. The "gate days" are full of spiritual and paranormal energy. It seems that Porphyry may have been right, spirits are able to easily travel on these days. **This infusion of energy makes gate days powerful times for any magickal or spiritual undertakings.**

Days in which the Sun or Moon activates the Silver Gate are useful for scrying, ancestor work, and working with earthbound spirits.

Days in which the Sun or Moon activates the Golden Gate are great for manifestation, spellwork, and working or communing with the gods/spirits.

Difference between Solar Gate Days and Lunar Gate Days

The Sun moves through the zodiac much slower than the Moon. Therefore, the Sun will spend much more time in the vicinity of a gate. This results in solar gate activations lasting much longer than lunar gate activations. A lunar gate activation lasts for roughly a day (that's how long you will be feeling its effects). A solar gate activation lasts for nearly a week.

How to Work with a Gate Day

There is not a lot of information out there at the moment on working with gate days. It is lost knowledge, and it is something that the Mondonac Center has been rediscovering from old texts and firsthand research.

The number one thing to do on a gate day is to cleanse and protect yourself. This act of spiritual hygiene allows you to then go and explore. Cast spells, work divination, and otherwise experiment on gate days! These are days of great spiritual power. When you work with gate days, remember that you are in charge of your own experience. Remember to:

1. **Cleanse** (Breath of Light ceremony, cleansing with incense, drumming, blessed water, etc.)
2. **Protect** (Opening the Veil ceremony, calling in your guardian spirit with a prayer, calling upon your guides, etc.)
3. **Experiment** and use that powerful connection for anything you want!

And feel free to report your experiences to the Members Forum! We want to hear your experiences with the gates.

Keep a Log

It is a good idea to track your experiences with gate days. This will give you an idea of what they are like for you. Note any strange occurrences, synchronicities, or dreams. We have included questions pertaining to this in this week's workbook material (for recording your experiences with the two types of lunar gate days.)

How to Know When It Is a Gate Day

You can use a sidereal ephemeris or an astronomy program like Stellarium to calculate when a gate day is coming up. Stellarium is free, and easy to use. It shows you where things are in the sky at any given moment. And you can check at different points in time to track what you are looking for.

Also, to make things easy, we will be posting notifications about upcoming gate days in the Mondonac Center Members Forum!

Contact us if you haven't already received an invite link to join the forum:
Mondonac.Center@gmail.com

Further Information (Non-Essential)

Exact Location of Gates

Ultimately, we are getting to a higher level of accuracy in locating the gates. This has come through both firsthand experience working with them and being sensitive to their subtle shifts. At this time, we use the tip of the "Club of Orion/the Hunter" to mark the Silver Gate. Specifically, when the Moon or Sun nears the star **Chi1 Orionis** we know the Silver Gate is in the process of becoming active. And for the Golden Gate, we use the right knee of Ophiuchus as a marker. When the Moon or Sun nears the star **51 Ophiuchi** we know the Golden Gate is becoming active.

Out of Phase

When calculating "gate days", it is best to go with what you can see in the sky (the Sidereal Zodiac). The Tropical Zodiac, which is used to calculate natal charts and is often used in Western astrology, is approximately one month out of phase with the Sidereal Zodiac **due to the precession of the equinoxes**. So an ephemeris for the Tropical Zodiac will tell you that the sun is in a particular gate approximately one month before it actually is (that is, when you can

go outside and see the sun aligned between either Taurus and Gemini, or Sagittarius and Scorpio... assuming you have the right filter on your telescope to actually see that during the day. Note: never look at the sun...)

Notes: We would like to mention that, though they are out of phase, it is important to remember that both the Sidereal Zodiac and Tropical Zodiac are each right in their own ways, they just pertain to different energies. The Tropical Zodiac measures the energies of the cyclical earthly year, while the Sidereal Zodiac measures alignments with the stars. One is focused on earthly cycles, the other is focused on heavenly alignments (this is perhaps an oversimplification, but it gets across the general point).

Galactic Center

One interesting tidbit to note is that the Golden Gate aligns almost perfectly with the center of our galaxy. This is a cosmic coincidence, a fortuitous accident. It is not the necessary outcome of any of the aforementioned alignments. By a strange act of cosmic fate, the Ecliptic and Milky Way align to form an X that marks the center of our galaxy. And interestingly, it is through this gate that the “gods” and cosmic spirits enter and exit our reality. It makes you think about what might be going on at the center of our galaxy... And due to the same alignments, the Silver Gate points directly outwards from our galaxy, pointing to the edge of the galaxy and towards intergalactic space.

Solar Activations Do Not Necessarily Occur When There is a Solstice

While they do now, due to the precession of the equinoxes solstices have not always aligned with solar gate activations. For example, in 1 AD the Summer Solstice fell on June 24, during which the sun was between Gemini and Cancer, a full zodiac sign (approx 30 degrees) away from where it is now on the Summer Solstice (between Gemini and Taurus). We live in interesting times when this alignment of gates and solstices can occur. For example, 500 years from now, the Summer Solstice will no longer fall close to a gate day.