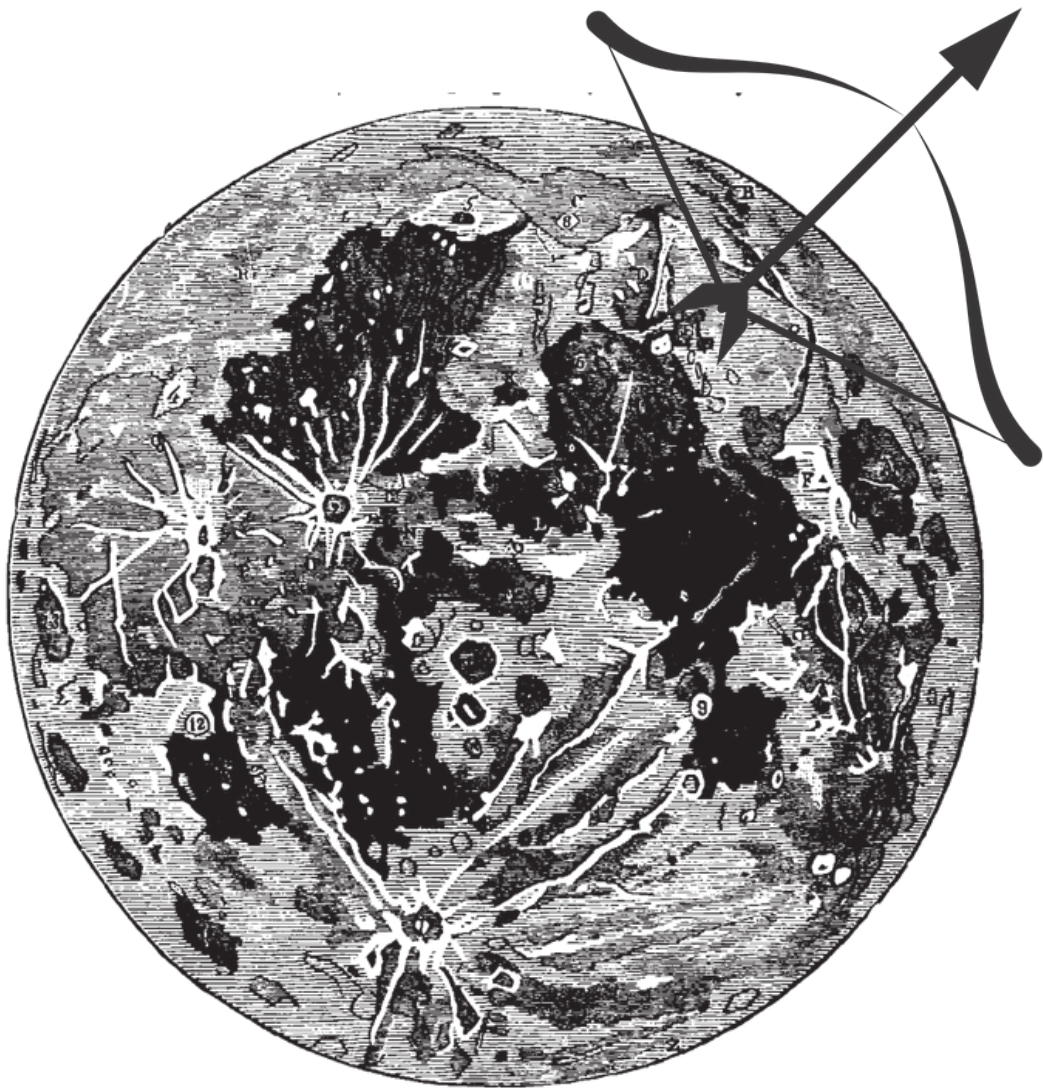


A u t u m n  
W a t e r

# The Hunter's Moon



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# The Hunter's Moon

The Hunter's Moon marks the time to start preparing for the coming winter. Traditionally, this included hunting, slaughtering and preserving meats for use in the coming winter months. It is also known as a sanguine or "blood" moon.

The Hunter's Moon is mentioned in several sources as the Anglo-Saxon name for the Full Moon of October. However, the term did not enter into usage for Europeans until after they made contact with Indigenous Americans and began colonizing North America.

Traditionally, hunters used the full moon of October to stalk deer and to spot foxes at night. Because the fields were traditionally reaped in late September or early October, hunters could easily see foxes and other animals that came out to glean from the fallen grains.

In India, the harvest festival of Sharad Purnima, which marks the end of the monsoon season, is celebrated on the full moon day of the lunar month of Ashvin (September-October). There is a traditional celebration of the moon during this time that is known as the "Kaumudi" celebration – which translated, means "moonlight".

In the Northern Hemisphere, some Native American tribes and some places in Western Europe held a feast day. The Hunter's Moon is a yearly festival in Lafayette, Indiana, which has been held in late September or early October every year since 1968. It is a re-creation of the annual fall gathering of the French and Native Americans which took place Fort Ouiatenon, a fur-trading outpost in the mid – 1700s.

Other names: Travel Moon, Dying Grass Moon, Blood Moon, and Sanguine Moon.

# Celebration Ideas

During this cycle, we're called to honor life and death, face our fears, banish shadows, and remember loved ones.

- Eat pumpkin
- Cleanse the home for the new year
- Take a nature walk and collect items for decorating such as acorns and pinecones
- Divination
- Reflect on the past year and year ahead
- Write what you are releasing on fallen leaves and allow them to compost or burn
- Pause and reflect
- Enjoy apple cider, dark wine, apples, pumpkins, pomegranate, nuts, spices, and other fall foods
- Feast on meat as this would have been one of the foods that were in season. Farmers had to make the hard choice as to what livestock they could keep over winter. Much of the grain harvest went to storage to feed animals during the winter.

## Sources

Sophia Center for Goddess Study Priestess Training Class handouts by Dr. Candace Kant, Professor of History

Full Moon Feast: Food and the Hunger for Connection by Jessica Prentice

Stepping Into Ourselves: An anthology of Writings on Priestesses by Anne Key & Candace Kant

The Old Farmer's Almanac

...and various other sources collect over 20 years. Some are printed, some are handwritten, while others are scribbled on a napkin. I've had many teachers over the years and many of my biggest inspirations came from simple conversations and gatherings rather than formal lessons or rituals. Because of this, I may not always have every source of information but if you recognize something, I would be happy to include and/or link to the original source.