



1. BEITH BIRCH

Northern Hemisphere Dates: November 1–28

(Southern Hemisphere Dates: May 1–28)

Totems: Snake, Phoenix, Eagle

Deities/Guides: Macha, Morgan, Cerridwen, and
Hecate (the Crone aspect of the Goddess)

Letter: B

Class: Peasant

1st Lunation

Celebration: Celtic New Year, November 1 (May 1)

Keywords: endings and new beginnings, cleansing and purification, releasing old patterns, overcoming difficulties, shedding the old, new growth and renewal, pliancy in the peaceful resolution of conflict, higher perspective, return to innocence

The Beith Birch initiates the first lunation. At this time of year, as we prepare for winter and seek deep transformation, we honor the crone aspect of the Goddess. Although crones are harbingers of death, they are also responsible for birth and new life. They are our midwives. After a period of emptying and releasing old patterns, acknowledging disappointments and regrets and embracing our achievements, we listen carefully to the quiet voice within and set our intentions for the year to come. In this way, we plant the seeds of future possibilities and establish the foundation for the year ahead, which heralds in what we call the dark half of the year, when the new gestates in the dark. Birch will also help in the peaceful resolution of conflict. She provides a higher perspective and spiritual understanding. She will return you to a state of innocence and non-judgment. The ogham for this tree is Beith and the letter B.

BEITH BIRCH IN A READING

When you draw the Birch card, you can expect new beginnings.

However, in order to move ahead, you may have to tie up loose ends and let go of what is no longer needed. Therefore, Beith Birch also stands for cleansing and purification. Old patterns are released, and you can shed unhelpful influences, now, just like this tree sheds its bark. This is a time for forgiveness of yourself and others.

There is the promise of new starts, renewal, and new life. This is the time to set new intentions, now that you have let go of last year's energies. Sit quietly so that you can listen deeply. From your heart, begin to formulate new plans and intentions. This is the time to decide what seeds you will plant and cultivate for the year ahead.

Birch also offers healing, peace, and resolution in times of conflict. Her branches are pliant and supple. Take a Birch leaf or twig with you – or imagine her in your mind's eye – when you must resolve a conflict. She brings in the power of peaceful reconciliation.

Take a look at your new year with a higher perspective. Allow your higher self to inform you. Breathe in her deepest message, which is love and light. Let Birch's heart-shaped leaves remind you that your true wisdom comes from the heart. Allow yourself to look at your life and the world around you with new eyes. Lay aside your judgments and return to a state of innocence.

REVERSED

Perhaps you are reluctant to let go of that which is keeping you from moving forward – afraid to release old patterns and unhelpful influences. You may not be ready to forgive or to deal with conflicts. Perhaps you are hanging onto the old, and it is not serving you. Think about where you are not allowing your life to flow naturally. What are you holding on to so tightly that nothing can change? You are encouraged to let go so you can move forward.

Set your house in order. This is probably not the best moment to begin something new, as you have work to do to prepare first. When your thoughts and feelings are aligned with your highest good, then you will be able to clear the way and begin.

If you find that you are overly judgmental, now is the time to let such habits of thought go. Judgment only creates separation, and in truth there can be no separation. Make an effort to return to innocence and to your connection to all that is. Play a game, take a run, do something fun to remind you what it feels like to be a child again. From this place, you can let go of your resistance and move into your heart space.

MESSAGE

I am the beautiful Birch tree. I wear bright gold and red leaves in the autumn. My branches grow down long and slender; my many heart-shaped leaves dance and whisper in the wind. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds of my leaves rustling in the autumn winds. Listen to my encouraging messages.

See how I love to grow tall and straight? Look up and see the sky. Look all the way to the tip of my highest branches. Look to the light, and as you do so, allow yourself to lighten up. Imagine you are the eagle landing on my highest branch. Seek a higher perspective. You can see the whole picture – the exact opposite of not seeing the forest for the trees! What do you notice?

I encourage you to open your eyes and allow your innocence to come forward. Let go of any need for separation and judgment. Allow yourself to remember how it feels to enjoy yourself and feel as one with everything and everyone. Come into my field, my aura, and we will start over from this moment. We will begin a whole new story that is set in this very moment, where everything is already given. Keep facing the light and allow me to bring you the awareness of my higher perspective.



2. LUIS ROWAN

Northern Hemisphere Dates: November 29–
December 26

(Southern Hemisphere Dates: May 29–June 26)

Totems: Horse, Centaur

Deities/Guides: Chiron, and Horse Goddesses,
like Epona and Rhiannon, the Great Mother
and Her Sons

Letter: L

Class: Peasant

2nd Lunation

Celebration: Winter Solstice, December 20/21
(June 20/21)

Keywords: protection, intuition, discrimination, spiritual strength, ecstasy, astral travel, connection with the mystery, magic

The Luis Rowan initiates the second lunation of the year. It is during this portal that we celebrate the winter solstice, also known as Alban Arthuan, Yule, and Midwinter. At this time, we celebrate the rebirth of the sun and honor the great mothers who gave birth to inspired sons. This represents the longest day of darkness; now the sun begins to return. Rowan advises us to seek protection from enchantment or control of others. We are also reminded about our ability to astral travel. We are encouraged to connect with ecstasy, universal unconditional love, and higher consciousness. The ogham for this tree is Luis or the letter L.

LUIS ROWAN IN A READING

Rowan offers you protection. This may refer to protection from actual enemies or simply from people or situations you do not trust. Luis Rowan will make you aware of others' manipulations or power plays – and also may alert you to your own manipulations. She asks you to keep your wits about you and allows you to discriminate between what is good for you

and what is not. Rowan strengthens your intuition, especially in business ventures or new relationships. If you receive this card in relation to such situations, heed her warning: things may not be what they appear. She provides the spiritual strength to help you to turn away from anything that threatens your serenity and purpose.

Rowan also asks you to connect to ecstasy. Make time for creative endeavors and quiet time. Take guided journeys to communicate with your totem animals and spirit helpers. Include music, dance, ritual, and ceremony in your life. Pay attention to your dreams. Look for messages in synchronicities. Read inspiring books or take a class that reconnects you to spirit. Cultivate a relationship with the Divine. Luis Rowan assures you that bliss and ecstasy are your birthright. Open up to the magic and the mystery all around you. You may not be able to see the unseen realm, but you can communicate with it. The result is regeneration and joy.

Rowan asks you to mother yourself well. She asks you to weed out thoughts, emotions, and actions that do not reflect your higher self. This is like taking out the garbage on a daily basis and is especially important when something powerful needs to be resolved. She reminds you that you are a magnificent spiritual god or goddess, and that by being intentional you can take responsibility for everything you create. With love and forgiveness, you can be assured that you are creating the very best.

REVERSED

If you are down in the dumps or feeling especially pessimistic, remember that you can change your mind and thus affect your emotional state. By changing a negative thought to a neutral or more positive one, you can change your feeling state. You have a choice – even though you might not believe you have any power in the matter.

Luis Rowan reversed can also indicate that you are not taking enough time to connect with source or spirit or creativity. Stop for a moment and consider what you need to do to fire up your inner flame and keep it burning bright. Are ignoring your intuition when it waves a

red flag letting you know that, regarding certain situations and people, something is not right?

MESSAGE

I am the lovely Luis Rowan tree. I am a tree that invites you to write down your dreams, listen to music, make art, play with collage, build something with your hands, or simply sit quietly and be in silence. Winter is a beautiful time of year, and the extra hours of darkness allow you to enter your internal world, where riches await your discovery. Feed your heart with love: Imagine a purple flame there that increases with every breath of love you offer it. Let this loving fire expand and warm every part of you. Let it sweep away your fears and limitations. Let it rekindle the heat of your imagination. You are indeed a genie. You have access to everything you need.

Imagine that you are complete and perfect and allow this realization to nourish you. Get on your magic horse and fly above the clouds. Travel where you will. Gather what you need. Enjoy what I offer you, as it is your birthright to feel joy and happiness. Embrace your creativity, inspiration, joy, and enthusiasm. Spread the good news.

I ask you to feel safe as I offer you protection. I strengthen your ability to discriminate and assess situations and people. I strengthen your intuition. I help you choose the path of health, joy, and vibrancy. Allow the Great Mother to love you and support you. Allow the nurturance, care, and nourishment to flow into every cell of your body. Allow this love to penetrate every situation.