

The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

News From The Astropoetic School May 2017

Greetings from **The Astropoetic School of Soul Discovery** located on Milky Way Farm at the heart of the galaxy in the Missouri Ozarks – where floodwaters have recently rearranged the landscape in subtle ways and life is teeming with optimism, despite the odds.

Tracking the Soul Workshop

August 17-21, 2017
@ Spirit Matters, Almonte, Ontario, Canada

One opening left. If you want it, [sign up now!](#)



This 4-day workshop is sponsored by The Astropoetic School and [Yggdrasil Retreat](#). The workshop is based on my book [Tracking the Soul With An Astrology of Consciousness](#) and is suitable for anyone, regardless of their knowledge of astrology.

For those who do know some astrology, the book outlines not just the theory behind the astro-chakra system, but also demonstrates the practical application of this

theory to real life. Everything you need in order to understand your own life issues and shift them with conscious intent is presented in the book.

Still, it can be a daunting task to actually do this work, especially for someone with a limited knowledge of astrology. To make the ideas in this book more accessible to more people, I have created this experiential workshop.

Although I will use the astro-chakra system presented in the book to help participants focus more clearly on specific life issues, the focus of the workshop itself is not astrology, but soul growth. At the workshop, we will not be using astrological language. Instead, this will be our opportunity to share our soul stories, learn from them and from each other. The workshop will also include authentic movement and other experiential exercises designed to help move the energy of insight into the body where it can effect deep and lasting transformation.

About the workshop, one 2012 participant said:

The concept is brilliant: working on your core issues in a beautiful and powerful setting. Eating vegetarian food. Bringing in exercise and meditation to complement it. It was the first time that I really sat down and thought of my life in that way and it was helpful.

Another 2013 participant said:

I would say that it was life altering. I feel that strongly and I don't say that lightly, perhaps because I've done some personal growth work before. I was ready to heal and I'm extremely grateful for this past weekend.

A 2016 participant said:

The workshop was really, really something for me. It was wonderful, scary, fun, sacred, mind jarring, a time of growth and peace and a whole lot more.

Our 2017 workshop will be held from August 17-21 at [Spirit Matters](#) near Almonte, Ontario, Canada. This workshop is co-sponsored by The Astropoetic School and [Yggdrasil](#) - a mystery school/retreat center now in the formative stages. Since the workshop does require advance preparation, early registration is encouraged.

The Mentorship Program is a series of 6 one-on-one sessions with me, designed to prepare you for the workshop. In these sessions, we will identify the issue(s) you wish to address, explore their implications in terms of the chakra system and your birthchart, and track the story of their evolution throughout your life, as the relevant pattern in your chart is triggered by important transits and progressions.

At the workshop itself, we will bring our uniquely personal stories into a community of kindred spirits, human beings one and all, everyone struggling with the same basic issues, and learning how to bring as much compassion and wisdom as we can

to the human predicament. In this atmosphere of highly charged group support, there will be plenty of time for processing and multiple opportunities for shifting patterns to a higher level of expression, awareness and self-empowerment, for those who are ready.

The cost for the workshop is \$300, payable in advance. The cost of the workshop will be in addition to the fee for the Mentorship Program, which is on a sliding scale of \$300-\$600 for 6 sessions.

At the workshop, a further separate cost will apply for accommodation during the 4-day residential; at this workshop, this will cost \$100 CND per day - which includes lodging and 3 vegetarian meals a day. Although the exchange rate fluctuates, as of this mailing in May, this works out favorably for anyone south of the border to about \$73 US per day. The accommodations fee can be further reduced for anyone willing to share dormitory-style sleeping arrangements or camp.

After the workshop, an optional 90-minute follow-up phone consultation is available for half price (normally a \$150 value). In the consultation, you can ask any questions you wish that arise from the workshop.

Registration

If you are ready to register for the workshop, the first step is to sign up for Yggdrasil's [Mentorship Program](#). Once you have done that, you can sign up for the workshop on the same page.

The Basic Correspondence Course

For those of you who wish to learn astrology, not by rote, but through an extensive program of self-reflection in which you are encouraged to form your own personal relationship to the symbolism – The Astropoetic School provides a [Basic Correspondence Course](#). The course is a constantly evolving work in progress, currently encompassing 24 basic lessons, with homework assignments.

Students can sign up for 6 classes at a time. Because each lesson is quite intensive, and is meant to be a meditation that will only gradually reveal its full depth, it is recommended that students pace these lessons at one every two months. But more ambitious students, or students with more time to spend, can work at a faster pace, if that is what they want to do. Advanced placement is also possible for students with some knowledge of astrology, although even at the most basic level, I guarantee that every student of astrology will learn something new about themselves and about the symbolism of their chart.

Unlike some other courses of instruction in astrology, the Basic Course is not a pathway to professional accreditation, or competency, but is rather designed for those who want to use the language of astrology to more consciously engage their own soul's journey. Having said that, it is also my opinion that any practicing astrologer should have a deeply intimate knowledge of their own chart in relation to their own life process, and this course provides that perspective.

For those who feel ready for such an adventure, you can read the details and sign up [here](#). The following is an excerpt from Lesson 9 on the Feminine elements: earth and water.

Earth in Excess

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If the Sun and Moon are both in earth signs, or either Sun or Moon are in earth signs and the chart as a whole displays a preponderance of planets in earth signs, you have a very earthy personality tending toward excess earth.

If earth brings energy down, excess earth types can become depressive; limited by unnecessary rules, strictures and taboos; and trapped in unhappy situations by a lack of imagination, courage, and/or unwillingness to change. I know several friends and former clients with high earth, who stayed in failed relationships long beyond the point where it was healthy or useful or even convenient to do so, just because they could not bring themselves to admit defeat. Troubled blues singer Janis Joplin, who often turned her personal angst into song, was perennially lonely, depressed, and emotionally overwrought, and committed suicide at age 27. In cogent expression of the depressive qualities of excess earth, she is quoted as saying, "Tomorrow never happens. It's all the same fucking day, man," "Audiences like their blues singers to be miserable," and from the song *Me and Bobby McGhee*, "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose."

If earth is steady, reliable, regular, methodical and consistent, excess earth personalities can be rigid, unyielding, and inflexible. George Wallace, governor of Alabama during the civil rights era, typifies this facet of the excess earth profile. Wallace is famous for his "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door," during which he personally attempted to block the admittance of two black students into the University of Alabama. This astro-poetic image of the intransigence of excess earth is verbalized in his famous quote, "In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

If the earth personality is responsible, grounded, hardworking, and precise, excess earth personalities can become workaholic micromanagers with meddlesome noses, ground to the bone by obsessive worry, or perfectionist obsessions. In the 1990s, an excessively earthy friend and I worked together to help save the Ecuadorian rainforests through "ground-level" projects that implemented sustainable agro-forestry practices on a community-wide basis. Although my friend was quite competent, fiercely dedicated to the work, extremely hard working, and uncompromising in his integrity, I had to eventually abandon the project because there was little room for autonomy, or independence of expression. Everything had to be done his way on his time schedule, and I found it impossible to function at my best on such a short leash.

If earth is focused, committed, persevering, traditional and conservative, excess earth can be fearful of change, intransigent, incapable of adapting to the ever-shifting demands of life in flux or crisis, and bound to dysfunctional patterns simply because they are tried and true. A female friend of a former partner tried to commit suicide when her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer, just because she

could not imagine life without him. A client chose to stay in a dead relationship with an older man with whom she had little in common, because she had no viable means of earning her own livelihood and didn't want to face the financial disruption that such a divorce would bring. Adolf Hitler feared the contamination of the pure Aryan race that a mixed and open society in flux would necessarily entail, and sought to prevent that possibility through extreme measures that left millions of people dead and many more psychologically-scarred for life.

In their desire to live according to their values, and their tendency toward a one-size-fits all mentality, excess earth personalities can be overly judgmental, harshly critical and intolerant of those who do not share their views. Here we have fundamentalist Christian preachers Jim Bakker and Jerry Falwell; archconservatives Barry Goldwater, George Wallace, Ronald Reagan and John McCain, as well as Nazis Adolph Hitler, Hermann Goering, and Albert Speer. At the other end of the political spectrum, we also have Karl Marx, quite intolerant of wealthy capitalists, and Malcolm X, a militant leader of African Americans during the civil rights era and a scathing critic of white America for its treatment of his race, while preaching a doctrine of black supremacy labeled white racism by his critics.

Acerbic, misanthropic comedian George Carlin, known for his biting criticisms of western culture at its most dysfunctional was an excess earth personality. Unlike other examples in this series, who promoted an "us vs. them" mentality, Carlin's target was the human race as a whole. Among other statements exemplifying the critical capacities of excess earth, Carlin said, "I look at it this way... For centuries now, man has done everything he can to destroy, defile, and interfere with nature: clear-cutting forests, strip-mining mountains, poisoning the atmosphere, over-fishing the oceans, polluting the rivers and lakes, destroying wetlands and aquifers... so when nature strikes back, and smacks him on the head and kicks him in the nuts, I enjoy that. I have absolutely no sympathy for human beings whatsoever. None. And no matter what kind of problem humans are facing, whether it's natural or man-made, I always hope it gets worse."

Lastly, if earth is practical and straightforward, excess earth personalities can be lacking in imagination, incapable of seeing the forest for the trees, and rather pedestrian or conservative in their thinking, which is very much inside the box. Some of those already mentioned fit this description. Arch-conservative fundamentalist preacher Jerry Falwell, for example, favored the traditional patriarchal family structure, opposed segregation, criticized sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa in the 1980s, thought all public education should be Christian-based, and so on. Mr. Conservative (by 1960s standards), Barry Goldwater, popular 1960s conservative president Ronald Reagan, and conservative torchbearer in the 2008 presidential election, Senator John McCain, who harkened back to the "good old days" of Ronald Reagan in his campaign, are all high-earth personalities.

Having said this, however, I am amazed at the number of earth preponderant souls in my database who apparently dwell at the opposite extreme. At their most creative, people with high earth can possess the genius to make the incredible, fantastic, or unbelievable seem real. Perhaps they are free to do so because they have a solid tethering in this reality, which makes it possible for them to more deeply and thoroughly explore other realms. The "sleeping prophet" Edgar Cayce was an early channel, who proffered knowledge of Atlantis, the secret life of Jesus,

impending earth changes and other matters not accessible by rational means, while in a self-induced trance state. Surrealistic director Federico Fellini and more contemporary director of the Star Wars series George Lucas share a high-earth profile, as do many modern writers of fantasy fiction (especially dark fantasy fiction) – H P Lovecraft (a master of horror in the tradition of Edgar Allen Poe), H G Wells (author of the frightening account of a Martian invasion in *War of the Worlds*), Rod Serling (writer and producer of the prototypical 1950s science fiction television series *The Twilight Zone*), Roger Zelazny (winner of numerous Nebula and Hugo awards, famous for bringing mythological characters and various deities into contemporary human settings), Stephen King (contemporary best-selling author of numerous horror stories, novels and screenplays influenced by Edgar Allan Poe and H P Lovecraft), and J K Rowling of Harry Potter fame. Swiss author Erich von Daniken, who wrote about extraterrestrial influences on early human culture; controversial anthropologist/shaman Carlos Castaneda, who wrote at length about the incomprehensible world of the Yaqui brujos of Mexico; and contemporary advocate of psychedelic shamanism, Daniel Pinchbeck, also serve as fitting examples of this unlikely dimension of excess earth.

Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers Part Two: Arithmology in the Birthchart

Just a heads up for those who have been waiting for it: **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part Two** – which explores the application of the spiritual psychology of Pythagorean Number Theory (called arithmology) to the birthchart – will be out by the end of the year. The book has been edited by the astute and skillful Marcia Buthchart, and I am currently doing interior layout.

Manuscripts are available for pre-view for any published astrologers, willing to give me an endorsement. If you are interested in this possibility, please contact me privately at jlandwehr@ancient-tower-press.com.

The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery Where Your Life is the Classroom

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Quote of the Month

"In the beginning and the end was Nothingness. Nothingness implied the possibility of Somethingness. It's impossible to make something from nothing. Therefore, Nothingness could only imply Somethingness. That implication is the Universe... We are wisps of that implication." – Kurt Vonnegut, *Wampeters, Foma & Granfalloon*