



## The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

# News From The Astropoetic School September 2014

Greetings from **The Astropoetic School of Soul Discovery** located in the heart of the galaxy on **Milky Way Farm** here in the beautiful Ozarks – where stillness fills the air like a healing mist.

As we head into that time of year when cool mornings and the occasional outbursts of red and yellow leaf reminds us that nothing stays the same long enough for us to claim ownership of it, I am in a mood to give a few things away.

## A Free Copy of Seven Gates

Over the past 10 years, I have written 3 books, and am 400 hundred pages into my 4<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who don't know, writing is a lonely albeit deeply rewarding pursuit. I write because the process of writing feeds me on some level that has no words to describe it. Occasionally, I hear from one of you that something I wrote has touched you, but mostly I hear the echo of my own voice commingling with the spirits of the unseen realms.

Last year, I built a shed to house the 2,000 copies of my first book [The Seven Gates of Soul](#) I so foolishly printed in a moment of optimistic delirium. The spiders have already discovered how useful the boxes are to anchor their webs, and are much better at capturing prey than I am readers. Rather than let the spiders have them, I am inclined to give at least a few of them away.

**To the first 5 people who respond to this email, and request one, I offer a free copy of The Seven Gates.**

To refresh your memory, The Seven Gates is a 6,000-year history of ideas about the soul, exploring ideas from eastern and western religion, philosophy, science, psychology and astrology. You can read more about the book on [my website](#) – including the entire introduction, TOC, and reviews.

My other books include:

[Tracking the Soul With an Astrology of Consciousness](#) presents a complete system of spiritual psychology integrating astrology and the chakra system, including astrological case studies for each chakra and

anecdotes from my experience as an astrologer of 40+ years and a student of Yogi Bhajan and Swami Muktananda.

[Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One](#) is a meandering exploration of the extant teachings of Pythagoras about number, showing how number is encoded in our collective psychology, and in the construction of the universe of which we are conscious.

[Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part Two](#) – which I am writing now – shows how the spiritual psychology of numbers is encoded in the birthchart.

## An Excerpt from Part Two

© Joe Landwehr – All Rights Reserved

Just to give you a taste of where I am going with this, here are a few excerpts from Part Two, taken from Chapter Nine on the astrological presence of the number 5. Please be aware that this is copywritten material, and no part of it may be reproduced without written permission.

### *The Realm of Five*

When the arithmologists observed that, “the pentad is particularly comprehensive of the natural phenomena of the universe,” they were implying that the Realm of Five is where Spirit (or the Monad) enters into the natural phenomena of the universe, not as something separate from it, but rather as something inherent within it. To the universe, Spirit brings life – infused with natural order, and organized by intelligent design. This is not the intelligent design of fundamentalist zealots who want to teach creationism alongside Darwinian theory, but rather a more basic recognition that the natural world is – when left to its own devices – amazingly complex, quite efficient, often intoxicatingly beautiful to behold, and filled with answers to fundamental questions that leave even the best human minds perplexed. As noted by Janine Benyus and the Biomimicry Institute:

*Nature, imaginative by necessity, has already solved many of the problems we are grappling with. Animals, plants, and microbes are the consummate engineers. They have found what works, what is appropriate, and most important, what lasts here on Earth . . . After 3.8 billion years of research and development, failures are fossils, and what surrounds us is the secret to survival.*

If we are to survive as well – that is to say, in our terminology, avoid a collective backslide into the Abyss – then we must learn from nature, and in so doing, realize our own natural intelligence. We, too, are infused with the same

intelligent design as the rest of “the natural phenomena of the universe” – provided that we live intelligently, using the divine gift of consciousness not to dominate, control, and manipulate nature to our own ends along a path of inequality, but as a humble yet integral part of a much more complex and comprehensive web of life to which we belong and to which we have a responsibility.

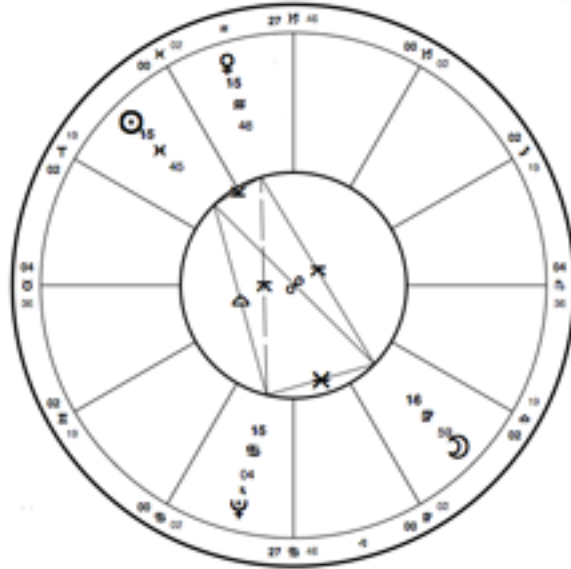
It is this awareness of responsibility – as the catalyst to the cultivation of natural intelligence – that serves as the driving engine in the Realm of Five. In the Realm of One, we project this intelligence into our deities in the hope that they will rescue us from ruin; in the Realm of Five, we ourselves must take responsibility for this ever-present possibility. If we have learned to choose a path of equality through the Realm of Two, and to moderate our choices by conflict resolution, co-creative synergy and counter flow in the Realm of Three, the world we manifest together in the Realm of Four begins to reveal the divine intelligence that permeates it in the Realm of Five. When all is flowing in harmony with natural law in the Realm of Five, we experience beauty, wonder and the deep satisfaction that comes through being a part of a seamless whole of ingenious design.

Conversely, if we choose our deities poorly in the Realm of One, follow a path of inequality through the Realm of Two, suffer conflict and cognitive dissonance in the Realm of Three, the world we manifest in the Realm of Four yields a profound sense of disharmony in the Realm of Five. When this happens, the world turns ugly, fearful, and permeated by despair.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Venus, the Full Moon and Pluto in the Realm of Five*

In addition to – or at times instead of its interaction with Neptune – Venus’ participation in the Realm of Five is enhanced when it forms mutual aspects to Sun and Moon opposed each other (at the Full Moon) – particularly when Pluto is also involved. Neptune does not interact by major aspect with Venus in the chart of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, but he was born during a Full Moon with Venus semi-sextile Sun and inconjunct Moon. In addition, Pluto forms a mutual aspect to Sun and Moon, creating a strong opening to the 7<sup>th</sup> chakra. Venus is not in a sign, house or quadrant placement complementary to the Realm of Five, though it is in the part of its cycle where it is visible as a morning star. The mutual aspect to a Full Moon in aspect to Pluto is what pulls Marquez’s Venus into the Realm of Five.



**Gabriel Garcia Marquez – 9:00 AM EST, March 6, 1928, Aracataca, Columbia  
Venus, Pluto and the Full Moon in the Realm of Five**

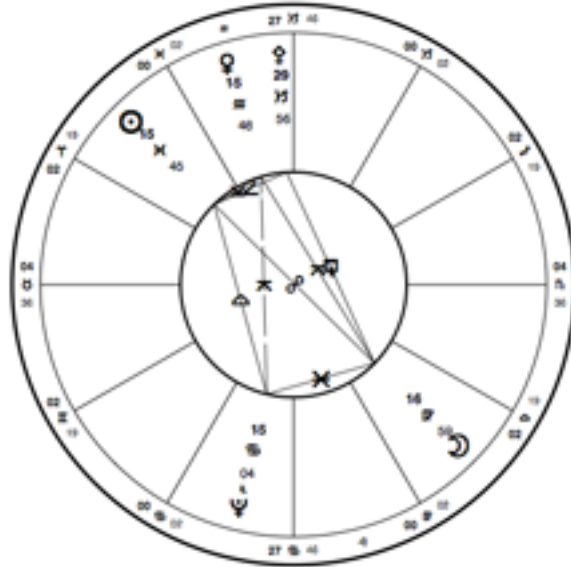
While Jane Austen uses parody, burlesque and irony to call focused attention to the patterns of disharmony underlying social conventions, Marquez uses techniques of magical realism to heighten awareness of “the mystery that breathes behind things” (Carpentier). It is this mystery that animates the intelligent design at the heart of the Realm of Five, and it is Venus that invites our participation in it – not as outside observers, but as voyagers on an initiatory journey that changes everything. Like Amelia Earhart’s discovery of the wonders of flying through the little red airplane that “spoke” to her, the adventure often begins with a point of entry through the ordinary into the extraordinary. The patriarch of Marquez’s *One Hundred Year’s of Solitude* Jose Arcadio Buendia’s adventure began when the gypsies arrived with magnets, proclaiming, “Things have a life of their own . . . It’s simply a matter of waking up their souls” (1-2).

In the Realm of Five, it is our souls that awaken through exposure to a living matrix in which we are compelled to find our place. Like Marquez’s Buendia, this journey toward the hidden knowledge at the heart of things – the divine intelligence that permeates the embodied world – is one we pursue, regardless of cost. If the Full Moon provides an opening to this “mystery that breathes behind things,” Pluto is guardian of the threshold that demands we surrender the small sense of self that keeps us apart from it as the price of our admission.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Pallas in the Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

In Marquez’s chart, Pallas forms mutual aspects to the Full Moon base that completes his Realm of Five Pattern with Pluto.



**Gabriel Garcia Marquez – Pallas in the Realm of Five**

Pallas can be seen contributing to the fertile imagination of a Realm of Five soul in ways that reveal larger historical patterns unfolding over time, and the impact of those patterns on ordinary people heroically trying to live ordinary lives. A journalist before he was a novelist, Marquez has an acute sense of the brutal and tumultuous history of Columbian politics, and is strongly committed to the causes of the poor and the weak against domestic oppression and foreign economic exploitation. Being labeled a magical realist often puts the emphasis on “magical” in critiques of his writing, but beneath the often whimsical, dream-like and sometimes absurd tone that permeates his style is a secret strategy for meeting the hard forces of reality with magic in the true sense – that is to say, alignment with the primal forces of nature. As described in the Nobel Prize committee’s press release about his 1982 award:

*A tragic sense of life characterizes García Márquez's books – a sense of the incorruptible superiority of fate and the inhuman, inexorable ravages of history. But this awareness of death and tragic sense of life is broken by the narrative's apparently unlimited, ingenious vitality, which in its turn is a representative of the at once frightening and edifying vital force of reality and life itself.*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tracking the Soul Workshop**

**Hearthaven Retreat – Willow Springs, Missouri  
November 14 – 18, 2014**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing I would like to give away (or the 3<sup>rd</sup>, if you count the preceding appetizer from [Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part Two](#)) is a 20% discount to anyone who signs up by **September 14**.

Based on my [book](#) of the same name, [Tracking the Soul](#) is an experiential workshop, integrating the exquisite spiritual psychology of the seven chakras with an intimately personal, image-based approach to astrology that I call astropoetics. The workshop brings the provocative theory of the astro-chakra system into real-life application in relation to core issues brought by participants.

Beginning with a timeline of significant events in your life, and then mapping your astrological cycles to it, we gradually work our way toward a story of the particular thread of your soul's journey you are inspired to track. The story then becomes a launching pad for insight and meaningful changes. Said one participant about the process:

*Here, Joe's skills truly came to the fore. He helped us all to see just how unique and valuable our life experiences, as illustrated by our chosen pattern, had been to our souls. Despite the suffering our stories revealed, I think we all felt acknowledged, and honored, in the sharing of them. We gained clues to shifting old patterns.*

Included with this workshop are 3 preparatory lessons, designed to teach the basic astrology necessary to get the most value from the 4-day experience of the workshop itself. Each lesson will be customized for each student, based on their current level of familiarity with astrology and the chakra system. Each will include a homework assignment, and a follow-up 90-minute Skype consultation.

**Lesson One** will cover the chakra system, a psycho-spiritual adjunct to astrology, great for understanding how consciousness is being channeled through life experience.

**Lesson Two** will cover basic astrology, as it applies to the chakra system, and specifically as it applies to each student's chart. This lesson will be customized to meet each student at his or her current level of knowledge.

**Lesson Three** will help each participant identify core issues, determine which issue will be their focus in the workshop, and work out the time frame for tracking the relevant soul story.

The workshop itself will be our opportunity to share these soul stories, learn from them and from each other, and move the energy of insight into transformation through [authentic movement](#) and other experiential exercises. This is what two of last year's participants said about this powerful combination:

*This is a truly experiential soul journey with a unique yogic and astropoetic flavor. It gave me the support and inner courage I needed to go through the confusion and disorientation of uncovering my core wound. I can still feel the empowering moment when my whole being, my own body, showed me how to shift out of*

*fear and become more me. I now have a deeply embedded touchstone for that.*

*I would say that it was life altering. I feel that strongly and I don't say that lightly, because I've done some personal growth work before.*

Limited to a small number of people, the workshop provides each participant with ample opportunity to be the loving center of group attention, while allowing plenty of alone time for integration. To supplement our group work, there will be an opportunity for bodywork, individual sessions, and daily yoga classes.

For more information, or to register, go [here](#).

## My Blog Series

As noted in my last newsletter, this year, I am committed to writing more on my three blogs:

[The Astropoetic School](#)  
[Ancient Tower Press](#)  
[Yggdrasil](#)

Here's what I've done lately:

[Astrological Recapitulation](#) – On my Astropoetics blog, I've written an 8-part series exploring a non-interpretive approach to astrology, loosely based on the Toltec practice of shamanic recapitulation:

*Recapitulation is a Toltec shamanic practice of remembering our past, but it is not remembering in the ordinary sense. For beneath the outer events of our daily existence is the internal movement of the soul, on a journey toward healing and wholeness. Beyond the identification of patterns and themes, and even beyond recognizing how a client is working with patterns and themes, in the most meaningful astrological work – or in the most meaningful therapeutic work of any kind – we are seeking to recognize and more intentionally honor the movement of our souls through our life experience.*

[Exploring the Realm of Two](#) – On my Ancient Tower Press blog, I am currently posting Chapter Two of my third book – [Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One](#) – in its entirety as an 11-part series:

*Within the Realm of Two, life is a field of resonant interplay, in which we are attracted to various people, places, things, ideas, and*

*experiences. This resonant attraction generally occurs in one of three ways. By affinity, we are attracted to that which is like us in some way. By contrast, we are attracted to that which is unlike us in some way, so that we may come into greater balance with ourselves. Wherever we have issues to address, we are attracted – usually unconsciously – to that which holds the potential for triggering our core wounds, so that we may work on them, and learn whatever lessons are harbored there.*

**Seeking Sacred Balance** – On my third blog (for Yggdrasil – the mystery school/retreat I am working to manifest) – I have recently posted a 9-part series about the possibility of returning to a state of balance between the archetypal Masculine and Feminine:

*Without meaning to oversimplify a complex set of problems, I'd like to suggest that the dilemma we face in restoring Sacred Balance to our world is fundamentally a matter of balancing the archetypal Masculine and Feminine. I capitalize these words to emphasize that I am not talking about men and women . . . All of us have a Masculine side and a Feminine side. This is as much an expression of the nature of our world – which is characterized by duality – as it is the nature of the human psyche.*

**Ceres, Climate Change and the Bardo State** – Lastly, if you haven't already seen it, I would invite you to read my new article published in the August/September issue of **The Mountain Astrologer**.

*Perhaps when a planet is promoted (or as in the case of Pluto, demoted), there may be a similar shift in metaphorical significance worth noting. If so, it is not unlikely that Ceres' recent designation as a dwarf planet in 2006 by the International Astronomical Union parallels an important sea change in our understanding of who we are and what we are doing here on this physical planet of limits and consequences. In this article, I speculate about Ceres' rising capacity to illuminate the current state of the anima mundi or soul of the world – given recent developments since her change in status.*

## **Unsubscribing**

You are on my mailing list because you were at one time interested in my work. You are automatically subscribed to this e-letter, which you will receive periodically (not more than three times a year). In it, I will share the latest news of my various projects in motion.

Hopefully this news will be of interest to you, but if it is not, please just let me know, and I will take you off the mailing list.



If you know anyone else who might be interested in this newsletter, please feel free to pass it on. But please also be discriminating and do not simply broadcast it to your entire list. No one likes spam, and in no way do I wish to generate it.

Please do let me know if any of this touches you, or you want more information about my books, my blog posts, my astrological consultations, my astrological correspondence course, my workshops, or my unfolding vision of a mystery school-retreat center.

Be well,  
Joe Landwehr

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

**Ancient Tower Press**  
**Celebrating the Sacred Mysteries**

**Yggdrasil Retreat**  
**Where Visionary Contrarians Love to Hang**

**Connect with me on [Facebook](#), [Linked In](#), and [Twitter](#)**

**Quote of the Month**

*Art – real art – connects artists, and their art, and those who experience their art, to the metaphysical background of the world, to the imaginal work that lies deep within the physical. That is, in part, its ecological function. And that is why the continuing assault on the imaginal (and its explorers) are so pervasive, why the schooling of artists – of writers, musicians, painters, sculptors – has become so mechanical, so oriented toward surfaces, toward form. For if we should recapture the response of the heart to what is presented to the senses, go below the surface of sensory inputs to what is held inside them, touch again the “metaphysical background” that exposes them, we would begin to experience, once more, the world as it really is: alive, interactive, communicative, filled with soul, and very, very intelligent – and we, only one tiny part of that vast scenario. And that would endanger the foundations upon which Western culture, our technology – and all reductionist science – is based; for as James Hillman so eloquently put it, “It was only when science convinced us that nature was dead that it could begin its autopsy in earnest.” A living, aware, and soul-filled world does not respond well to autopsy.*

from **Plant Intelligence and the Imaginal Realm:  
Beyond the Doors of Perception Into the Dreaming of the Earth**  
by Stephen Harrod Buhner (2014)