

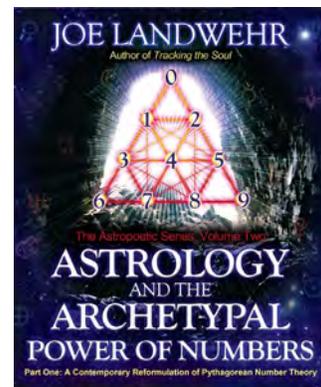
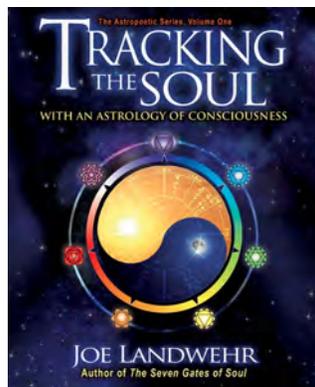
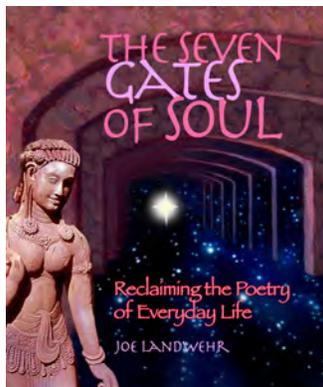
The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

News From The Astropoetic School September 2015

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 falling acorns pound my tin roof like a mad drummer drunk on the shimmering green buzz of summer's last hurrah.

Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers – Part Two

Since 2001, my publishing company **Ancient Tower Press** has published three books, each professionally edited, and produced to the highest quality, with covers by an award-winning artist. Together these books elaborate an exploratory, image-based approach to an astrological language of soul I call *astropoetics*.



For the past 4 years I have been working on the 4th book in **The Astropoetic Series** – **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part Two**. Part One (published in 2011) is a meandering exploration of the 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.

In Part Two, I demonstrate how number is also encoded in the astrological language – in ways that reveal the same divine intelligence at work in the lives of those who have changed our culture, and in poignant moments in history when the world as we know it appears to change.

Part Two has turned out to be a much more complex and nuanced project than I

anticipated, and I have so far written over 500 pages – outlining the many ways in which the spiritual psychology of number is woven through the birthchart.

Here are a few short excerpts, taken from the **Introduction**:

Mathematicians and scientists routinely use numbers to measure the quantifiable parameters of the so-called objective world, never suspecting that numbers could serve any other purpose. Yet some form of number was known to exist before mathematics or science, hinting at an *a priori* function more fundamental than these applications. This deeper sense of number was known to Carl Jung, who said (*Synchronicity* 41-42):

I incline to the view that numbers were as much found as invented, and that in consequence, they possess a relative autonomy analogous to that of the archetypes. They would then have, in common with the latter, the quality of being pre-existent to consciousness, and hence, on occasion, of conditioning it rather than being conditioned by it . . . Accordingly, it would seem that natural numbers have an archetypal character.

This archetypal character of number was further illuminated by Richard Heath, author of *Sacred Number and the Origins of Civilization*, quoted in Part One of this two-volume series (3):

In the dark ages that followed the destruction of Atlantis . . . the numerical powers that the ancient culture understood as giving rise to all creation became symbolized as gods. The early historical period became filled with symbols, iconographies, and myths that were degenerate components of the numerical worldview. Numerical realities were characterized by association to corresponding objects and human characteristics. Scholars have identified storm gods, fertility gods, trickster gods, and so on, but not the system that lay behind them.

As pointed out in Part One, the system underlying the correlation of numbers with deities was known to Pythagoras, who reconstructed it through a herculean 40-year quest integrating Egyptian, Babylonian, Chaldean, Phoenician, Brahmanic, Hebrew, Greek, Zoroastrian, and Hyperborean (pre-Celtic British) mystery teachings, and then passed in on through a succession of torch bearers including Plato. Pythagoras' teachings about number were written down by Neoplatonist teacher Iamblichus of Chalcis (c 245 – c 325 CE) in a book called *The Theology of Arithmetic: On the Mystical, Mathematical and Cosmological Symbolism of the First Ten Numbers*, translated into English by Robin Waterfield – a work that is generally believed to be an accurate reflection of Pythagoras' teachings, which in turn, became the source for my musings about number in Part One.

Pythagorean number theory – called *arithmology* by those who practiced it – was not strictly speaking presented in an astrological context by Pythagoras and his

followers. As elaborated throughout Part One, however, and particularly in Chapter Ten, each number was associated with multiple gods and/or goddesses from Greek mythology, as well as numerous secondary characters, and at least some of these references correlate with the planetary references of astrology. Both mythology and astrology were part of a mythopoetic worldview prevalent during the time of Pythagoras, and his theories were inescapably marinated in this worldview. To speak of the gods at all – whether in reference to number or mythology or astrology – was to enter a world of participation mystique in which humans, gods, plants, animals, stones, clouds, rivers, mountains and planets all interacted on a daily basis as part of an ongoing conversation.

It was in counterpoint to this mythopoetic worldview that science arose, first as a logical system developed largely by Plato and Aristotle in the 5th and 4th centuries BCE, and then gradually morphing into an empirical system over the course of two millennia. Today this mythopoetic worldview – and the capacity of participation mystique it requires – is considered to be the vestige of so-called primitive peoples, or an early stage of childhood development to be outgrown, or a largely unconscious mode of functioning in the fully developed adult. We have lost our ability to commune with gods and goddesses. Indeed to suggest that such a thing is possible in a postmodern world where religion and science together have managed to squeeze every last vestige of mythopoetic soul out of our collective cultural mindset is to evoke the telltale raised eyebrow of judgment, if not outright ridicule and social ostracism.

Yet, because these gods and goddesses and the numbers that possibly inform them are *a priori* factors in the evolution of consciousness itself – if Jung, Richard Heath and the Pythagoreans are correct – they cannot be entirely eradicated from our experience, however deeply buried in the unconscious they might be.

Although few astrologers would reference arithmological principles in describing how astrology works, they are nonetheless inherent in the astrological language itself. When astrologers speak of the twelve signs, the twelve houses, the four elements, the three modalities, masculine and feminine signs, and so on, they are speaking about numbers not in a strictly mathematical context, but in an implied arithmological sense. In addition, there are less obvious arithmological associations to be made when considering the duration of planetary cycles, the harmonic division of the whole circle that gives rise to aspects between planets, the overall shape and structure of the birthchart considered as a whole, and the association of various planets with various deities, by name or otherwise, through which various numbers are evoked. Less obvious arithmological associations are hidden in planetary patterns reflecting cross-chakra dynamics associated with specific numbers, as outlined in Part One. It is to make these underlying arithmological principles more explicit, that Part Two of this book is being written.

Some astrologers would argue that because the birthchart is derived through a series of mathematical computations, some of them rather complex, astrology is a quantitative science. Yet, because the raw mathematical data from which a birthchart is constructed is then subject to interpretation and exploration on a subjective, qualitative, symbolic level of understanding, the use to which number is

put in astrological work is necessarily more arithmological in nature. While numbers in the mathematical sense produce the birthchart, an understanding of the symbolism of the birthchart is tacitly dependent upon an exploration of numbers in the arithmological sense.

An arithmological sense of number is even more critical to the study of astropoetics, through which the birthchart becomes the window for observation of the soul's journey, since it shows how that journey is rooted in a larger, ongoing, more all-encompassing process of creation. If we can conceptualize the individual soul to be on journey toward reunion with an immanent Spirit – which is how it was essentially understood by the Pythagoreans – then an arithmological exploration of the birthchart can yield valuable clues about this journey, where and how Spirit is involved, and which deities are the most appropriate guides.

Put another way, as we move through the numbers from Zero to Ten, we observe a process by which Spirit enters more deeply into Matter, manifest as consciousness – available to humans and in some way unknown or unrecognized by science, to all living things. As suggested in Part One, consciousness is also hardwired into the living fabric of the manifest universe itself. This omnipresence of consciousness can be understood as divine intelligence, evidenced everywhere within the natural world as an ordering of reality according to principles that are at once pragmatic and archetypal. These ordering principles can be understood through a reference to number and through an observation of the patterns in which they appear. The patterns themselves manifest in a wide varieties of ways – some that can be observed and measured by science, and others that must be intuited through the kind of metaphorical language that astrology provides.

In this book, I will examine the ways in which numbers underlie the construction of the birthchart – in general, and specifically within a particular chart – so that we can better understand how Spirit, or the gods and goddesses of the mythopoetic worldview, enter into our experience. At the same time, we will gain some insight into how the exercise of consciousness in harmony with the patterns in a birthchart can contribute to the alignment of an individual life or an entire civilization with the natural law that embodies divine intelligence. The archetypal principles underlying number in general were explored and illustrated in some detail in Part One. In Part Two, we will map these archetypal principles more specifically to various dimensions of the birthchart.

Although I have learned the hard way not to try to predict when a given book will be done, I am nearing the end of this one. As a consequence, I am starting to think about the usual preliminaries of the production stage. This is the point at which I seek the assistance of a good copy-editor, solicit professional endorsements, and start to dream about cover design. I am not quite there yet, but because this is a more ambitious project than I have taken on in the past, and there is a lot of material here to consider, I am starting early.

As I think about this, I had the wild-hair idea that perhaps I would reach out to my community of readers, clients, students, and colleagues to see who might be interesting in assisting me to bring this book into the light of day. Specifically, what I am looking for at this point are the following:

At least 3 professional astrologers, preferably with published books of their own, to read this one in the manuscript stage, give me your feedback, and if you find it worthy, an endorsement that I can use on the cover and in my marketing materials.

A good copy-editor – preferably one with other published books to his/her credit and an intermediate to advanced working knowledge of astrology. A background in psychology, mythology, and an eclectic appreciation of spiritual psychology will also be useful. This is not a book for beginners.

If you think one of these roles might be of interest, please contact me by email at jlandwehr@ancient-tower-press.com, and we can have a conversation about it.

Tracking the Soul Webinar Series

Part of what is unique about my approach to number in relation to the birthchart is that I associate each number with a spiritual task that can be conceptualized as an integration of two or more chakras. In my second book, [Tracking the Soul With an Astrology of Consciousness](#) I present a complete system of spiritual psychology integrating astrology and the chakra system. In my new book, and in the one that precedes it – [Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One](#) – I build upon this system.

For the past several years, I have taught this system in a 3-day workshop preceded by three preparatory sessions with each participant. While this has proven to be a very powerful experience for those who have taken the workshop, it does not allow me to go into as much depth as I would like. My guess is that the current workshop works well for non-astrologers, but for astrologers who would like to dive into the theory and the nuts and bolts application, an extended format might work better.



For this reason, I am now offering a yearlong webinar series, with an optional 3-day workshop at the end. The webinar series – limited to a small number of participants – would allow us to immerse ourselves in an understanding of the system and explore the individual birthcharts of participants in some depth.

I anticipate that each webinar will last about 2-hours – with the first hour devoted to a presentation of concepts, and the second hour set aside for exploring the chart of

one or more volunteers in light of the concepts presented.

There will be about 20 webinars in all – one every other week – and the cost will run about \$200 for the series. I will likely start the webinar series toward the end of September or the beginning of October.

I need a minimum of 6 people to make this work. There will be no more than 12 people in the group. If more of you than that are interested, I will divide the total number of participants up into smaller groups.

If you think this might be of interest to you, please email me at jlandwehr@astropoetics.com and let me know.

Joe has the uncanny ability to see through the mask of an individual and gently prod them onto a deeper, more relevant and profound exploration of their chart symbolism. I personally know him to be a genuine spiritual seeker, as well as a gifted writer and astrologer of the highest moral caliber. He is a master of the art of astro-poetic interpretation with the ability to skillfully interrelate mind and body, heart and soul into his teachings, which he pursues with passion. On this uncertain journey towards a deeper understanding of the meaning of life, I think Joe is as close as one can get! – former student

Yggdrasil Mentorship Program

Over the past several years I have been working with a small, but dedicated band of multi-talented souls to give birth to a vision I received in 2011 in the Utah wilderness. The vision is of a mystery school/retreat center called [Yggdrasil](#) where souls in transition can come and gain support for re-inventing themselves from the inside out. We do not have an actual center yet, but we have been developing workshops, and other experiential venues for people to begin to experience the kind of work we anticipate doing at the center.

Yggdrasil is meant to be a resource for those in the process of becoming a visionary contrarian. A visionary contrarian is someone who recognizes that they have been wounded by being born into a dysfunctional culture, AND instead of being victimized by that, deeply longs to turn their suffering into something positive that they can then give back to the world.

A visionary contrarian is someone who works with passionate resolve to transmute core wounds into a sense of visionary calling around which a meaningful life can revolve.

A visionary contrarian wants to change the world, but realizes that first, they must "be the change" they want to facilitate.

A visionary contrarian is a spiritual warrior, walking a unique path of self-healing and self-actualization through service to the greater Whole.

The curriculum at the school – and the core philosophy behind our work with visionary contrarians in the making – revolves around four primary soul tasks:

1. **tending the sacred wounds** – Each of us carries ancient wounds in need of healing that serve as the impetus for our soul's journey. By cultivating a more conscious and caring relationship to these wounds, we learn and grow as beings of character, depth, wisdom and compassion.
2. **cultivating a deep relationship with a visionary calling** - Often visionary calling arises as an outgrowth of our soulful quest to tend our sacred wounds. This happens naturally as we begin to translate our own healing and growth into a gift that we can then offer others. This calling will take the form of creative doing in the world, but grow out of a profound sense of being, spiritual identity, and purpose.
3. **inviting dialogue between diverse intelligences** – To change the world in any meaningful way, we must all practice the art of cooperative dialogue with the diverse intelligences of the world – with other human beings, with the more-than-human world of nature, and with the divine intelligence that permeates the design of this manifest world.
4. **courting the mysteries of the mythopoetic realm** - The final soul task of the school underlies the other three, and becomes their crowning culmination. When we tend the sacred wound and cultivate visionary calling, we naturally enter into a deeper relationship with ourselves rooted in the mythopoetic dimensions of everyday life. As we interact with each other, with the more-than human-world and with the spiritual underpinnings of this life, we attain a level of wholeness capable of nurturing the soul of the world and contributing to its wellbeing.

The path of the visionary contrarian is not easy. The work of transmuting core wounds into visionary calling requires fierce dedication, and can at times greatly benefit from the wise counsel of someone who has walked the path themselves - another visionary contrarian who empathizes with your struggle, because it is similar to their own.

At Yggdrasil, we have a number of wise mentors, who are available for one-on-one conversation with those are ready to make a solid commitment to their own growth and to the wellbeing of the world. We are currently in the process of creating a loosely structured program through which we can all bring our diverse skills and talents to bear through a coherent system of support for visionary contrarians through the mentoring relationship.

We have a limited number of openings for our “beta-testing” phase at substantially reduced cost. If this sounds like something that interests you, you can email me at jlandwehr@yggdrasilretreat.com.

I am also developing a “track” through the mentorship program that would – like the webinar series, but on a more personal one-to-one level – culminate in the [Tracking the Soul workshop](#). If this is of interest to you, let me know.

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

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Quote of the Month

In times of widespread chaos and confusion, it has been the duty of more advanced human beings – artists, scientists, clowns and philosophers – to create order. In times such as ours, however, when there is too much order, too much management, too much programming and control, it becomes the duty of superior men and women to fling their favorite monkey wrenches into the machinery.

from **Even Cowgirls Get the Blues** by Tom Robbins (1976) – as relevant, if not more relevant now, than then