

The banner features the text "The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery" in a golden, serif font. The background is a dark, starry space with a nebula in shades of blue and green, and several bright stars scattered throughout.

The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

News From The Astropoetic School January 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 hope for the New Year drips from the eaves where forbidding ice and snow used to be.

It does seem like 2015 is off to a running start, and in that spirit, I thought I would get an early jump on the year to give you an update.

From the Preface to the Astropoetic Series (Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Pt 2)

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In anticipation of publishing my new book sometime this year, I am currently running an [8-part blog series](#) on my [Ancient Tower Press website](#) taken from the Preface to the Astropoetic Series. [The Astropoetic Series](#) is my ambitious attempt to outline an astrological language of soul through a series of books that explore the various dimensions of the astrological language - numbers, astronomy, mythology, and an awareness of fresh correlations between astrological symbolism and the metaphors that appear spontaneously in everyday life. If you find the following excerpt interesting, you can [subscribe to the blog here](#), and get updates directly in your email box.

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*Toward an Astropoetic Language of Soul
In the Face of Glacially Slow Paradigm Shifts*

Both my previous books – [*Tracking the Soul With An Astrology of Consciousness and Astrology*](#) and [*The Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One*](#) – and this one are part of [*The Astropoetic Series*](#), in which my goal is to develop an astrological language of soul. In the precursor to this series – [*The Seven Gates of Soul: Reclaiming the Poetry of Everyday Life*](#) – I define soul as embodied Spirit, and Spirit as the omnipresent, immanent Intelligence that infuses Life on this planet with natural order. It is the embodiment of Spirit that makes possible the experience of consciousness, which in turn makes possible a conscious life informed by Divine Intelligence, lived in harmony with natural law.

Based on these assumptions, I view the journey of the soul as the lifelong effort of each individual to align herself with Divine Intelligence and natural law. This journey necessarily entails addressing all impediments to this alignment – wounds, core issues, and seemingly external obstacles to forward momentum, as well as the limitations of time and space, and conditions of gravity, entropy, and mortality that are unavoidable conditions of an embodied life. In addition, the journey of the soul involves a process of gradual self-discovery, learning and growth, as an individual reaches toward a more evolved depth of creativity that mimics the capacity of Spirit to order and transform the world. In this way – through self-healing *and* self-actualization – the individual soul participates and contributes to the collective evolution of the *anima mundi* at the heart of the embodied world.

The Seven Gates of Soul

In [*The Seven Gates of Soul*](#), I suggest that astrology can become a powerful language of soul – with which to describe and further explore the soul’s journey – provided it is first relieved of certain patterns of conditioning. This conditioning is intrinsic not just to it, but to a world dominated by the reductionist thinking of monotheistic religion and Newtonian science. Religion tends to confuse the mortal soul with the immortal Spirit and unnecessarily restrict the trial and error learning process of the soul with moral judgments. Science disavows the notion of soul altogether, essentially replacing it with the more limiting concepts of mind or brain function, and dismissing or attempting to negate the subjective nature of human experience. Furthermore, science insists that whatever does not fall under its purview – including most of the essential experiences of soul: the exercise of consciousness, creativity, love, healing, awareness of beauty, self-reflection, and self-transcendence – is either unworthy of investigation or must be distorted to fit the scientific paradigm before it can be considered real. Psychology – which evolved as a science in the late 19th century – finds meaning only in the measurable aspects of human behavior, which it then casts in quasi-religious judgment as “normal” or “abnormal.”

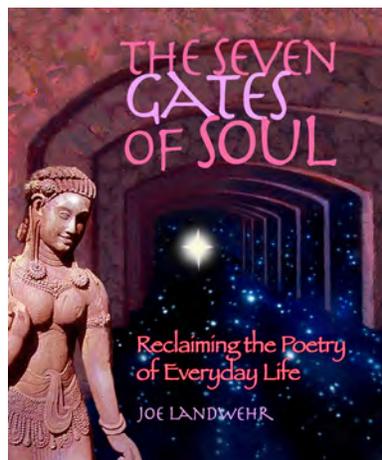
To be sure, religion, science and psychology are all slowly evolving in hopeful directions – although the key word here is “slowly.” As former professor of philosophy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Thomas Kuhn pointed out half a century ago, paradigms shift at glacial speed against the entrenched inertia of old, previously accepted ideas (*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 2nd Ed., Enlarged, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1970, p. 176). The upside of this conservatism inherent within the scientific community is that paradigms shift only when sufficient evidence has accumulated to tip the scale toward the new

worldview. The downside is that institutionalized investment in the old paradigm – in terms of money, reputation, and established infrastructure – often elevates mere hypotheses to the level of belief, and can then produce outright denial in the face of evidence that refutes it.

Thus nearly one hundred years after Werner Heisenberg postulated his Uncertainty Principle – casting doubt on the reliability of all scientific measurement – science still insists that only measurable evidence is acceptable. Nearly fifty years after Bell's Theorem has shown "that, at a deep and fundamental level, the 'separate parts' of the universe are connected in an intimate and immediate way" (Gary Zukav, *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics*, New York, NY: Bantam Books, 1980, p. 282), most scientific researchers still proceed as though it were possible to study reality as independent observers. More than fifty years after University of California psychologist Robert Rosenthal began documenting the effects of researcher bias in understanding human behavior, experimental design in the social sciences still pretends that only objective truth – that in which all subjectivity has been negated – matters. These entrenched scientific attitudes not only fly in the face of the newly emerging scientific paradigm, but also continue to condition the way we think about ourselves, and the way we practice both psychology and astrology.

Buy A Book Get a Free Copy of Seven Gates

My first book [The Seven Gates of Soul](#) is the precursor to [The Astropoetic Series](#). I set out to write a book about the astrology of soul, thinking maybe I should define what I mean by soul first. Nearly 500 pages later, I realized I needed to refine my intentions. As it turned out, **The Seven Gates** wound up being 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.

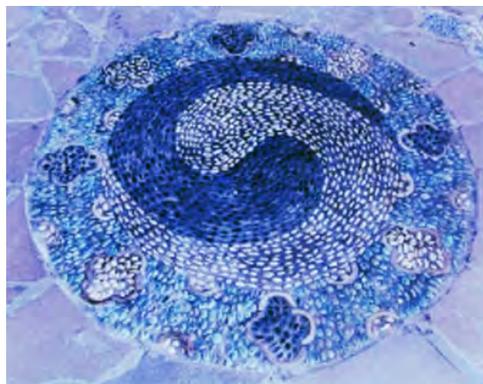
Because I foolishly printed way too many copies of **The Seven Gates**, I'd like to make the following offer:

**A Free Copy of The Seven Gates
to anyone who buys one of my other two books this month.**

In conjunction with [Yggdrasil Retreat](#), this is the first of two workshops I will be offering this year. It is for anyone who struggles to maintain his/her internal sense of balance in a world that seems to become increasingly out of balance with each passing year.

Returning the Wounded Masculine and Feminine to Sacred Balance

**May 1-4, 2015
Somewhere in the Ozarks**



We live in a culture dominated by the wounded masculine psyche. The wounded masculine is obsessed with competition, achievement, money and power, and has lost a deeper sense of calling to serve community and planet. The wounded feminine is obsessed with appearance, superficial connectivity, and security, and has lost an intuitive Earth-based wisdom and a capacity for compassion and caring. Together we have created a culture torn by war, genocide, ecocide, exploitation, addiction, denial, and out-of-balance behaviors that harm us all.

The purpose of this workshop will be to explore and begin to heal our sacred wounds as men and as women, and to come together to create dialogue and cooperation towards re-balancing the masculine and feminine in ourselves and our culture. This will be a co-ed experiential workshop to include meditation, ritual, ceremony, shamanic journeying, dreamwork, mask-making, authentic movement, and solo time in nature, as well as deep sharing in same sex and mixed gender groups.

Helping me to co-facilitate this workshop will be Nia Kallhof. Nia is a longtime meditator, yogic practitioner, and a Reiki master. She has additional training in Crystal Resonance Therapy and Primus Activation Healing Technique, has studied shamanism in Peru, and resides at [Hearthaven Women's Spiritual Retreat](#), where she frequently facilitates spiritual gatherings for women. For more information about Nia, see [her website](#).

To read more about the concept of Sacred Balance, go [here](#).

To read a first-hand account of a previous Sacred Balance workshop, go [here](#).

To sign up for this year's workshop, go [here](#). Anyone who signs up by February 1 will get a \$100 discount.

Ceres, Climate Change and the Bardo State

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.

For those of you who haven't already seen my article in the August/September issue of [The Mountain Astrologer](#), I have run the original article as [a blog series](#) on my Astropoetic School website.

For those of you who have read the article, I have added 5 additional posts not included in the article:

[Ceres and the Battle Over GMOs](#)

[Ceres, Bees and Colony Collapse Disorder](#)

[Agriculture, Climate Change, and World Hunger](#)

[The Opportunity for Empowerment in the Face of Crisis](#)

[Ceres, the Eleusinian Mysteries, and Spirit Plant Medicine](#)

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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

During the Enlightenment, in which science became the dominant philosophy of the western world, the sun was metaphorically seen as the light of reason. The rational, logical, linear, analytical mind was the source of this light, what we might call "solar"

consciousness . . .

. . . Yet when the world is seen as a place where everything is alive and in communication – that is, as an interactive dance of multiple subjects possessing their own interiority – then metaphorically, we are no longer oppressed by the unitary, solar viewpoint . . . This type of consciousness, which by contrast we might call “lunar,” sees all things as alive and meaningful. Lunar consciousness includes all the marginalized parts of ourselves that are so necessary to our health and to the health of the world: the emotional, the non-rational, the intuitive, the beautiful . . .

. . . The deeper we go into the mind, the more the lunar qualities of human consciousness become prominent.

from **Dream Tending** by Stephen Aizenstat (2011)