

# The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

## News From The Astropoetic School October 2016

Greetings from **The Astropoetic School of Soul Discovery** located on Milky Way Farm at the heart of the galaxy in the Missouri Ozarks – where a wet year and a warm autumn have colluded to extend the green season past the point of reason.

### 2016 Tracking the Soul Workshop



This year's [Tracking the Soul Workshop](#) was held from August 18-22 at [Spirit Matters Centre](#) near Almonte, Ontario, Canada. This workshop is co-sponsored by The Astropoetic School and [Yggdrasil](#) - a cooperative mystery school/retreat center in which I am involved.

At the workshop, we explored core issues – those pesky patterns that tend to repeat themselves throughout a lifetime of déjà vu all over again, until we learn the lessons they harbor, and then choose to behave as though we have learned them. Before the workshop I spent a great deal of time with each participant – either through [Yggdrasil's Mentorship Program](#) – for those with little or no knowledge of astrology; or in my [Webinar Class](#) – for practicing astrologers with an interest in the nuts and bolts of the astro-chakra system.

The astro-chakra system is an integration of astrology and the chakra system, as outlined in my 2007 book – [Tracking the Soul With an Astrology of Consciousness](#).

Astrology is a language par excellence for identifying core issues, and for tracking the evolutionary story behind them. The story inevitably includes our attempts to heal, and self-actualize in the face of early wounding, as well as challenges and crises arising from the wounding itself. When combined and integrated with an understanding of the chakras, the birthchart becomes a catalyst for understanding more clearly what our options are, how we might begin to live out our patterns in ways that are more creative and empowering to us, and how we can make a meaningful difference in the world.

Though the astrochakra system provided the conceptual scaffolding for the workshop, at the workshop itself, we purposely kept it fairly invisible. Instead, we sat in circle and listened to each other's stories. We witnessed each other moving authentically, letting our bodies tell us what they already knew about the patterns we were trying to shift. We learned about establishing clearer boundaries and speaking difficult truths. We did a sweat lodge, and offered our prayers to the Great Mystery. We went home amazed, different somehow, recharged for whatever comes next.

Next year's workshop will likely be next August at a venue to be announced. Since the preparation for the workshop takes time, and the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it, it is not too early to reserve your space.

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

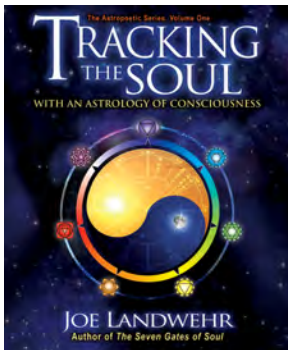
## 2017 Tracking the Soul Webinar Class



For professional astrologers, or those with a solid working knowledge of astrology, who are interested in learning the astro-chakra system as discussed in my book, one path of preparation for the workshop is through the [Webinar Class](#). You can also participate in the Webinar Class, without taking the workshop, although the combination is more powerful than either by itself.

The Webinar Class is both a small group learning experience, an interactive exploration of your own chart, and a personal growth opportunity. As with all offerings of The Astropoetic School, your life is the classroom, and what you learn can be immediately applied to whatever real life concerns and questions you bring to the class.

*What I love about your work and your insights is how they clarify astrologically what I am living. More importantly, they show proof that this very internal and "felt" process, which at the same time informs and includes the mind – so important – represents what I wish to actualize.* – JY, Current Participant



The Webinar Class is 20 2-hour sessions – based on my book [Tracking the Soul](#) – with homework assignments, and the opportunity to get my input between classes via email. In the first hour, I generally introduce some new principle or technique, and in the second hour, we apply what we are learning to one or more charts of class participants. We explore the astrological dynamics of each chakra individually; learn how to feel our way into a deeper understanding of each pattern; and then identify astrologically-based strategies for working with and shifting patterns toward clearer expression, greater creativity and increased self-empowerment.

The class is kept purposely small (no more than 6) to allow maximum opportunity for each participant to be the center of group attention. If you wish to be a part of the 2017 Webinar group, you can sign up [here](#). The 2017 Webinar Class will begin sometime in December 2016 – with the exact date and subsequent schedule to depend upon the availability of participants.

### **An Excerpt from**

## **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part Two**

*In all my books, classes and workshops, I purposely try to erase the barriers between student and teacher, for I am not ashamed to admit – I am always the first and last student of my own material, applying what I teach to my own life, and then refining my approach according to what I learn as I do that. I also often work personal material into my books to demonstrate what it is possible to learn from the one life we can truly call our own.*

*The following excerpt is from the latest (and what will be the last) chapter of my new book – which I assure you will be released in the foreseeable future for those of you who have been patiently waiting.*



## From Chapter 16 – The One Life I Can Call My Own

© Joe Landwehr 2016

### *The Half-Kite*

Astrologers generally consider the Kite Pattern to be a signature conducive to the development of creative potential. This potential is contained within the Grand Trine upon which the Kite is based, but in a more dormant or less easily manifest form. The soul whose chart is marked by the Grand Trine might possess natural talent in abundance, but not necessarily the drive or the ambition to develop it further or to make the most of it. It is a talent largely taken for granted, and/or actualized by happenstance.

One cannot contemplate the chart of Joseph Campbell, for example, without marveling at the immense potential encoded in his glorious Grand Fire Trine – connecting his 6<sup>th</sup> house stellium in Aries (including his Sun) with his Moon in Leo and Pallas in Sagittarius. While few can contemplate the prodigious body of his life work without marveling at how much he did manage to accomplish with his talent, it is easy to forget that he spent his first Saturn cycle essentially on an intellectual lark, financed on his father's dime. Perhaps this period of seemingly idle gestation – burning both ends against the middle for a while – was no small part of the dynamic in how he eventually arrived at his illuminating perspectives. In any case, it is also possible to see both the immense creative potential and the restless inertia with which it was only gradually claimed – that is often characteristic of the Grand Trine in general.

In other cases, the Grand Trine can represent a pattern of inertia and lethargy, out of which it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to extricate oneself. In Chapter Six, for example, we noted Gandhi's Grand Fire Trine between Moon, Saturn and Neptune as the basis for his lifelong struggle with ambivalence around his vows of celibacy. On the one hand, he might in theory embrace the ascetic appeal of a simple lifestyle suggested by his Saturn-Moon trine; on the other – reflective of his Neptune-Moon trine – he found ways to rationalize, bend the rules, and have his cake and eat it too.

As we noted in Chapter Six, it was only when transiting Saturn moved into position opposed his natal Saturn at the apex of what became a temporary Kite, that Gandhi found the resolve – in the aftermath of his guilt around the death of his father – to take his *brahmacharya* vows seriously, and then out of his commitment to *brahmacharya*, his deeper understanding of *satyagraha* emerged.

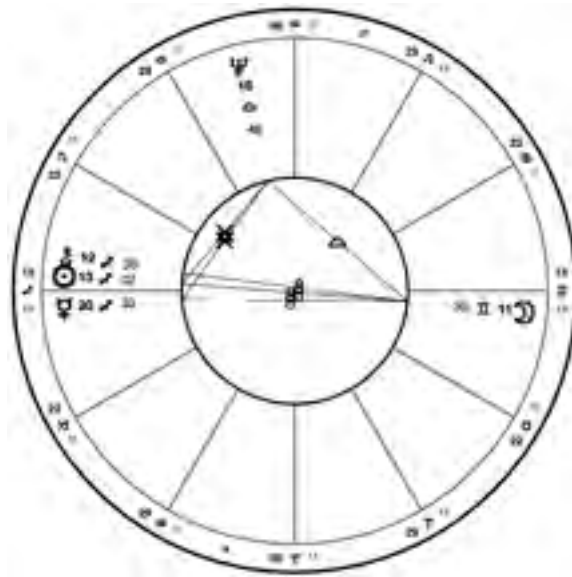
In a similar way, it was during the years that transiting Neptune moved to fill the apex of a Kite pattern with Campbell's Grand Fire trine (from approximately 2 – 7° Libra) from December 1942 – August 1946, that Campbell buckled down in earnest to write the book that established his place in our collective evolutionary stream – *The Hero of a Thousand Faces*.

While two examples are probably not enough to make a rigorous scientific case, I don't think it is going too far out on an astrological limb to suggest that the Kite Pattern – with its apex planet bisecting one of the otherwise inert arms of the stable, but potentially dormant Grand Trine – creates a certain creative momentum that can

potentially lead to breakthrough accomplishment in actualization of potential, and a more tangible contribution to the wellbeing of the whole.

When the Kite becomes the basis for a Realm of Four pattern, we might also surmise that the planet at the apex of the Kite – at the midpoint of one of the three trines of the Grand Trine that it bisects – provides a sense of direction, a potential *herma*, as it were, by which the individual soul can find their own way, and beyond that, illuminate a path for others. Such at least is the possibility suggested by the Kite in the Realm of Four.

Pioneering psychological astrologers Bruno and Louise Huber allude to this possibility when they call the Kite an “initiation figure in which the final stage of a certain development has been reached” (169). Presumably one who has been initiated can then illuminate the path for others. The Hubers, however, also speak about complicating factors in relation to this pattern – ambivalence, a tendency at times to swing between extremes, a striving for perfection, a pattern of avoidance, and other psychological quirks that at times compromise the potential. We might speculate that these complicating factors are inherent in the inertia of the Grand Trine that the Kite extends, and that from the soul’s perspective, working with the Kite to create a meaningful contribution to the wellbeing of the whole will necessarily involve working through and to some extent resolving these issues.



### *An Astropoetic Image of My Half-Kite*

Given this promise of the Kite in the Realm of Four, what then might we make of a Half-Kite – a Kite split in two, as it were? Rather than extrapolate from existing astro-logical theory, I am more inclined to begin my exploration of the Half-Kite – forming the basis of a pattern in both the Realm of Four and the Realm of Zero in my chart – with an astropoetic image: that of a bird with a broken wing. If we can imagine the Kite to be a living thing, we might easily see it as a bird in flight with each Half-Kite as a wing. Stretching my astropoetic imagination in this way, it is easy for me to imagine the aptly named Kite as a pattern representing two Half-Kites

working together to give the immense potential of the Grand Trine wings, that is to say, allowing a more focused creative outlet for energies to take flight, as it were, that might otherwise become static or blocked by inertia or merely taken for granted. With only one wing, there is the sense that something broken or wounded will have a greater challenge getting off the ground.

This association of a bird with a broken wing and the Half-Kite pattern – my Half-Kite pattern in particular – however, is not entirely a random firing of the poetic imagination. Since this past winter, I have been struggling with a sore shoulder, hurt while chopping wood with which to heat my cabin in the woods. Aside from the obvious need to address my physical pain with the aid of a skilled massage therapist, I am also always curious when something like this happens to feel my way into any metaphors that might be relevant to a more psychosomatic dimension of the issue, and beyond that to any more soulful implications of a more mythopoetic hue.

As it happened, I was also around this same time, becoming interested in the possibility of communing more directly with spirit guides, and working with a friend and colleague whose expertise is in this area. In my initial session with this friend – about a month after my injury – he asked me to become aware of how the guides that were present were attempting to connect with me. I reported that I felt healing hands on my back, a sensation of warmth and cool that was quite soothing. I also saw torn ligaments on my left shoulder, perhaps connected to a missing wing, as well as a large gash on the right side of my neck, accompanied by a burnt smell.

The night before this session, without my knowledge at the time, another friend had a dream about me, in which I appeared to her as a black bird with a broken wing. This was after I had shared with her a profound sense of loneliness, continuing to depress me nearly two years since ending a relationship I did not want to end.

This session took place with TR Uranus exactly opposed N Neptune. In this case, it would appear that TR Uranus is effectively illuminating and awakening a memory of something – perhaps an image that I might, from an astro-poetic perspective, be inclined to associate with my natal Neptune, and with this astro-logical sense I have of the Half-Kite pattern as an asymmetric, incomplete, or “broken” half of a full Kite.

### *Following the Astro-poetic Trail*

As these images of the bird with the broken wing began to appear, I suddenly remembered that during an aquatic bodywork session with my previous partner (about 9 years ago) shortly after we just met, I had the same image – or another version of it – as a fallen angel with a broken wing. I have since learned that in their encounters with the bird shamans of indigenous cultures, the early Christian missionaries began to reinterpret their experiences of *therianthropy* – specifically, in this case, shamans taking the form of birds – as encounters with angels. Within the lexicon of mythopoetic imagery related to my sore shoulder, then, a bird with a broken wing can be understood to be the equivalent of a fallen angel.

At the time of this aquatic bodywork session in which I saw myself as a fallen angel, TR Jupiter was at 18° Sagittarius – within the degree range encompassed by the Sagittarian stellium (Chiron/Sun/Mercury) at one end of the base of my Half-Kite

Pattern. TR Saturn was retrograde at 19° Leo opposing a stellium of planets in Aquarius (Mars/Chiron/Neptune/Pallas/Mercury) – clustered around the midpoint of 19° Aquarius, and completing the full Air Kite of which my broken wing/fallen angel Half-Kite pattern is half. Meanwhile, TR Mars at 11° Aquarius also formed an exact sextile to N Moon, trine to N Neptune, and sextile to N Chiron/Sun.

In Part One of this two-volume set about the relationship between astrology and numbers, I spoke about a trip to Chaco Canyon in which I had a vision of the ancient Anasazi as a culture of bird shamans, and knew that in some way my rational mind could not explain, I was a member of this tribe.

By the time I had this vision – nearly 6 months after my aquatic bodywork session – the impressive Aquarian stellium that filled in the missing wing of my Air Kite had dispersed. Only one planet lingered at around 20° Aquarius – trine N Neptune, loosely trine N Moon, sextile Mercury. That planet was Neptune – reverberating as a kind of shimmering reflection by transit of its natal position at the critical point in the broken Kite pattern, in many ways, the perfect planet to complete it.

Elsewhere in my books, I have written about my identification with Odin, his association with both wolves and ravens – who share a symbiotic relationship with each other in the natural world – and my relationship with both these totem animals. Without retelling this story here, suffice it to say that these associations – which in turn, connect me to the larger Mystery – and to something beyond my own individual life – are implicated in the correlation between astrological patterns and the Number Realms that we are exploring here. More specifically, as I map these associations to the primary patterns in my chart, it intuitively seems obvious to correlate my Half-Kite pattern –rooted in the Realms of Four, Two and Zero – with the image of a raven with a broken wing.

I wrote more specifically about my relationship with ravens in my first book – *The Seven Gates of Soul* (pp. 366-369). Again, I won't repeat that here except to note one incident during the first Gulf War, in which I had a fearful encounter while camping in the New Mexico wilderness, as two stealth bombers ripped the sky directly over my head and sent spasms of instinctual fear through my body. Immediately following the bombers, two ravens flew overhead in exactly the same formation, cooing and rolling on their backs in joy. At that moment, I had the distinct sensation that the ravens knew something that I had forgotten, and that perhaps we – as a civilization and a species – have forgotten. I could not entirely put my finger on exactly what – either then or now – except to intuitively associate that which was forgotten, whatever it was – with a broken wing, perhaps the broken wing of a fallen angel.

Here it is easy to associate the fallen angel with a messenger, since this is how both angels and shamans shapeshifting into birds were understood in their respective cultures. If the wing was broken, and the messenger fell, then presumably the message was not delivered. There is a sense here of something left incomplete, undone, or lost in midstream. If so, then perhaps the task before me, and at least part of the answer to the question: "What is my place within the greater Whole? What meaningful contribution can I possibly make to the wellbeing of the world?" involves recovering what was lost – healing the wing, remembering the message that never got delivered, and finding a way to complete the mission.

In the moment of my revelation camping in New Mexico, TR Neptune was heading toward a direct station – and was square its natal position, semi-sextile N Sun, and quincunx N Moon.

As intriguing as the astropoetic image of a broken wing might be, as I follow the trail of these experiences during important Neptune transits to my Half-Kite pattern with Neptune at its apex, there appear to be sound astro-logical reasons for the correlations I am making with them. As I struggle now with these shoulder issues – the physical condition in which these mythopoetic musings are rooted – TR Neptune is gradually receding from a retrograde station exactly square my N Moon & Sun.

If a pattern correlates with mythopoetic experiences, it would stand to astro-logical reason that this pattern ought to be implicated by transit and/or progression when these experiences occur – and without getting overly analytical about it, I can easily convince myself that this is the case. Since I am the one questing for answers to the question “What is my place within the greater Whole? What meaningful contribution can I possibly make to the wellbeing of the world?” and – in the end, the only one who can inhabit those answers as I live the one life I can call my own, I am the only one who must be convinced. Nonetheless, since it is my desire to invite you, the reader, on a similar journey, I will continue to share my musings on this astropoetic trail out loud, so that you can dare do the same – along a very different trail, no doubt – for yourself.



## **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**

#### **Quotes of the Month**

*"If you were born without wings, do nothing to prevent them from growing."* – Coco Chanel

*"Run my dear – from anything that may not strengthen your precious budding wings."* – Hafiz

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night – take these broken wings and learn to fly. – Paul McCartney*