

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-like glow in shades of blue and green.

The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

News From The Astropoetic School January 2016

Greetings from **The Astropoetic School of Soul Discovery** temporarily located in foggy Florida – where winter is just a fitful dream the ocean once had after churning up too many starfish.

Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers – Part Two

As I reported in my last issue, my 4th book – **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part Two** is nearing completion. 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. But as I write this, I am happy to report that an end is in sight.

Over the Christmas holidays, I completed Chapter Fourteen on how the spiritual psychology of the number 9 plays out in the birthchart, according to the principles of Pythagorean arithmology. Having worked my way through the single digit numbers 0-9 in some detail, with dozens of case studies, large and small, I am ready in the final chapter (or possibly two chapters), to demonstrate how the system works as a whole. With any luck at all, the book will be ready for publication this fall.

As I near the completion of my manuscript, I am looking for:

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. I am willing to pay a reasonable fee for a good copy editor and/or work out a partial trade.

Here is a short excerpt from Chapter Fourteen – hopefully to entice you:

The Realm of Nine and Fate

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In Part One, I associated the Realm of Nine with the idea of Fate – or the solidification of choice. Choice first arises in the Realm of Three as we become aware of a continuum of possibilities in relation to any polarity we might encounter in the Realm of Two. Between hot and cold are a virtually infinite number of intermediary states – scalding, hot, tepid, lukewarm, cool, cold, and frigid, just to name a few possibilities. A similar range exists with regard to any polarity we can identify. Knowing this entails a certain freedom to choose where on a given continuum we want to be. Ultimately, it also entails a responsibility to choose wisely, if we wish to live in harmony with our own nature and the natural order of things.

Unconscious choices are often made by blindly following our instinctual preferences. As we grow in consciousness, we can at times, choose according to what might be most appropriate in a given situation, and in general, our range of choices will expand. This expansion of consciousness is all rooted in the basic experience of choice that becomes available to us in the Realm of Three. As we choose in the Realm of Three, unconscious choices tend to revolve around an unspoken and largely unconscious identification with one side or the other of a given spectrum – often with the implicit understanding that the side with which we identify is "good," while the side that is foreign to our nature, less familiar, and less trusted is "bad." Making choices in this way puts us on a path of inequality, which inevitably leads us back to the Abyss from which we are trying to extricate ourselves.

To the extent that we are willing and able to learn from our mistakes, we gravitate

toward a path of equality – at first through a mere tolerance of the other side previously labeled “bad,” and then increasingly toward an embrace and integration of it. We see this played out time and time again in the lives of individuals, and in the movement of history at large – and have documented numerous examples of this throughout this book.

Within each Number Realm beyond the Realm of Three, the implications of the basic concept of choice take on added dimensions. In the Realm of Four, the cumulative impact of our choices gradually begins to coalesce into a sense of direction. In the Realm of Five, we become increasingly aware of a divine intelligence permeating the manifest world, and our choices within it increasingly become either a matter of alignment with this intelligence or a willful ignorance of it. In the Realm of Six, we are compelled to look more deeply into our core issues, and the way in which our choices either lead to healing (becoming whole) or increased pain and suffering for ourselves and others. To the extent that we have done this essential soul work in the Realm of Six, our range of choices along the spectrums on which our issues exist expands tremendously, and the increased versatility to be anywhere on the spectrum at all fosters complex creativity. To the extent that we have not done the necessary soul work, in the Realm of Seven, life can merely become more complex, requiring choices laden with ambivalence and internal contradiction. In the Realm of Eight, complex creativity becomes a force for rebalancing the culture at large; either through increased integration or disintegration. Choices here either allow us to work as active agents of divine intelligence, or make us the unwitting victims of the rebalancing forces, which shatter our lives and plunge us back into an Abyss with no easy exit.

At every step of the way – that is to say, at each simultaneous level of experience as it is understood within the context of the Number Realms – we have the opportunity to choose equality over inequality and exercise a course correction. In the Realm of Nine, however, the cumulative weight of our choices results in a much more intransigent inertia, for good or ill, and paradoxically, we no longer seem to have much choice at all. Essentially, as the phrase goes, we have made our beds, and now must lie in them.

If we have chosen wisely in the other Realms and aligned ourselves with divine intelligence, the world we inhabit will reflect that as a tangible experience of everyday reality. If we have chosen poorly, the world we inhabit will look very much like the Abyss or the Realm of Zero, but with much less hope of extrication. To the extent that choice is possible at all, it must be between Heaven or Hell, often with both co-existing side by side, and each of us potentially having a radically different experience than the person living next to us. In the Realm of Nine, those who have not become the gods and goddesses in whose footsteps they have been following can only hope that those who have might rise to the occasion and save them. Anyone who has paid attention to the basic premise of this book – which is that each of us must save ourselves through the hard soul work of embodying divine intelligence – must realize this is not going to happen. But it may take another turning of the arithmological wheel (as 9 becomes 10 – and $1 + 0 = 1$) to begin to assimilate the full implications of this entrenched attitude of victimhood.

The good news for those who are consigned to wait for a redemption for which they themselves were not ready to take responsibility is that the Realm of Nine also encompasses the arithmological idea of a pivotal point of return – 9 being the last of

the single digits, after which the sequence repeats itself: i.e. 10 = 1 (1 + 0); 11 = 2 (1 + 1), 12 = 3 (1 + 2), etc. – and a portal to some higher turn of the cycle into a dimension beyond the reach of this physical world. How this happens is a Mystery, which cannot entirely be explained, although it has been alluded to by metaphor in various religious traditions, mythologies and mystery teachings around the world.

Tracking the Soul Workshop

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 4-day workshop, preceded by three preparatory sessions with each participant.

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 necessarily be customized to meet each student at their current level of knowledge.

Lesson Three will help each participant identify core issues in their birthchart, determine which issue will be the focus of the workshop, and work out the relevant time frame for tracking the soul story related to the outworking of this issue in real life.

Our 2016 workshop will be 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 mystery school/retreat center now in the formative stages. Since the workshop requires a bit of preparation, early registration is encouraged.

This year, in lieu of the three preparatory lessons, I have created additional pathways of preparation for the workshop.

If you have an interest in learning more about the astrology related to the specific issue you are tracking, we might recommend a personal [Mentorship](#) offered in conjunction with [Yggdrasil Retreat](#). This will be an opportunity for you to work one-on-one with [me](#), author of Tracking the Soul and originator of the Tracking the Soul workshop. Your mentorship will be in lieu of the three preparatory lessons, and will generally involve a more in-depth exploration of astrological symbolism.

Secondly, for professional astrologers, or those with a solid working knowledge of

astrology, who are interested in learning the nuts and bolts of the astro-chakra system as discussed in the book, I am offering a [Webinar Series](#). Like the Mentorship Program, the Webinar Series is an alternate path of preparation for the workshop, in which ideas are presented more experientially. Unlike the Mentorship Program, the Webinar Series will be a small group learning experience, rather than a one-on-one source of personal guidance.

This year's Webinar Group has already been filled and is underway. I am excited to be finally presenting these ideas to practicing astrologers, whose knowledge and experience is helping me to fine-tune the system, and to discover the nuances that can only come through extensive application.

If you wish to be a part of the 2017 Webinar group, let me know and I will reserve a space for you.



Meanwhile, we do have room in the workshop itself for additional participants. If you are interested in either the Mentorship Program or the standard 3 preparatory lessons, you can read more about these options, and sign up [here](#).

If you have questions or wish to discuss which option might be write for you, please email me at jlandwehr@astropoetics.com.

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. – 2013 Participant

Sacred Balance Workshop

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.

In addition to being a co-sponsor of the annual Tracking the Soul workshop, Yggdrasil also hosts a second annual workshop called Returning the Inner Masculine & Feminine to Sacred Balance.



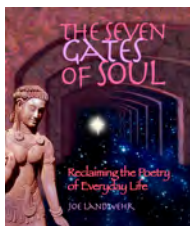
The purpose of this workshop will be to explore and begin to heal our sacred wounds as men and as women, and to come together to create dialogue and cooperation towards re-balancing the Masculine and Feminine in ourselves and our culture. When we speak of Masculine and Feminine here, we are not talking about gender, but rather archetypal qualities present in both genders. Because of our cultural conditioning, however, there are certain attributes that we may have adopted on either side of the spectrum that do not contribute to our authenticity. Conversely, there may be opposite gender attributes that we have failed to integrate because of cultural stigmas. This workshop will be an opportunity to address both possibilities and work together toward a fuller embrace of wholeness and sacred balance for all of us.

This year's workshop is being held from May 5 – 8, somewhere in the Ozarks. If you'd like to join us for a fantastic growth experience, and some serious fun, you can read more and register [here](#).

A 2015 participant said that the Sacred Balance workshop was:

one of the most genuine experiences I've had because of the sincerity of the facilitators and the other participants.

Retrograde Madness



If you've read this far, I'd like to reward you by offering you a **FREE** copy of my first book, The Seven Gates of Soul – a 6,000 year history of ideas about soul, taken from eastern and western religious traditions, various schools of philosophy, science, and psychology, as well as a prescription for approaching astrology as a truly useful language of soul. The first five requests in response to this newsletter will get a free copy of the book. If you have already

gotten a free copy in one of my previous offers, please give someone else a chance.

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

Of all the lies we have ever been told, this is the worst: that the Gods no longer speak to us . . . For our ancestors, Divinity was immanent, bubbling forth from rivers and springs, and whispering in the breezes that rustled through the cities and farms. . . . To find our way back to that ancestral place where we walked with the Gods, we must relearn how to see the world as they did.

from **Talking With Spirits** by Kenaz Filan & Raven Kaldera (2013)