

THE CHIRONIAN

A photograph of a cave interior. A large, dark, weathered log lies diagonally across the upper half of the frame. Below it, a pile of light-colored, angular rocks sits on a dark, earthy floor. The cave walls are covered in green moss and ferns. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

BY ERIC FRANCIS

*To Joseph Trusso, who knows very little about astrology, and
who taught me how to be an astrologer.*

And to Patric Walker.

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Now the bricks lay on Grand Street
Where the neon madmen climb
They all fall there so perfectly
It all seems so well timed
An' here I sit so patiently
Waiting to find out what price
You have to pay to get out of
Going through all these things twice

— Dylan

A Few Acknowledgements

THIS MANUSCRIPT of my compiled articles about Chiron from 1996 to present has landed on my desk on the eve of a lunar eclipse in Virgo and moments before the Chiron-Eris conjunction of 2026. This project was made possible thanks to a year of impeccable, patient work by Sara Mononen, who located and assembled all of the writing.

Sara built on a prior, much older bibliography researched and compiled by Amy Rose Blaschke, musician and daughter of the beloved astrologer Robert Blaschke.

I was first introduced to Chiron by Laurie Burnett, then of Nevada City, who said, "If you like Pluto, you'll love Chiron." She also made sure I learned how to read progressions, and that I read and somewhat understood *Esoteric Astrology* by Alice A. Bailey. Like everyone who has tried, I'm still working on that one.

I offer my deepest gratitude to the Chiron pioneers, who recognized the significance of a whole new kind of thing in the solar system and the astrological chart. They include discoverer of 1977-UB and later (2060) Chiron, Charles Kowal ("This thing is a maverick!"), Brian Marsden, longtime director of the Minor Planet Center (who provided astrologers with the first ephemeris), Zane Stein, who made friends with astronomers, and Al H. Morrison ("Chiron is the inconvenient benefic"), who published Stein's book *Chiron: Essence and Application* using equipment located in his living room.

Melanie Reinhart, author of *Chiron and the Healing Journey* and *To The Edge and Beyond*, has been my friend, sister astrologer, co-conspirator, sounding board and cheerleader throughout my astrology career.

Barbara Hand Clow, author of *Chiron: Rainbow Bridge*, wrote the book that after reading about 100 pages of it somehow helped me focus the entire astrological concept in one idea, just like that. Dale O'Brien, or Doc Chiron, has been my friend, coach and advisor from the early moments of my astrological endeavor.

David Arner taught me classical astrology so that I would be a better minor planet astrologer. Geoffrey Cornelius taught me horary astrology and demonstrated that, like Chiron, astrology is a divinatory tool.

Initiation in the Chironian

AROUND THE TIME I wrote my first horoscope column in the early spring of 1995, my old friend Nikki Peone and I were exploring cement mines on the property where my little apartment was located. I lived in a converted mule barn on the former Norton Cement works in Rosendale, New York. We found a crag in the landscape amidst the ancient fossilized seafloor (also known as limestone cement ore), settled in and meditated through the Taurus New Moon.

A dimensional opening happened for both of us; that's the only way I can describe it. Interior space became wider, a kind of tunnel opened, and we were transported somewhere else, without the assistance of any mind-altering substances. Then the experience subsided.

A few minutes later, I climbed a little hill to the side of our cave and discovered a vast underground cavern. This space became known as the Chironian. Like something in Middle Earth, you can only find it if you're ready and you know how to get there. It is impossible to see from the nearby trail.

Making Home in a Cave

Throughout spring, I made the place my home. I cleaned up the old mine, fixed the fire circle, raked the earthen ground. I communed with the bats and the Earth elementals and other critters, made fire, drummed and learned the part of astrology that is not written about in books: directly connecting to the elemental energy of our planet and grounding my work in the ancient rock.

I was fully committed to my astrological journey and thought it would be a good idea to hold an initiation ritual in the Chironian. The night of the Mars-Chiron conjunction in Virgo seemed perfect — that was July 7, 1995. This was probably my first use of electional astrology.

Preparations were made, wood was gathered, drums were transported down to the cave, and the invitation was sent out. By some miracle, more than 50 people found the Chironian in the back of a forest set amidst scores of abandoned mines. Two fires were lit and the flames touched the ceiling. That night, I committed to my path, and remain on it to the present day.

A Travel Journal

This compilation of about 28 articles is a kind of travel journal pertaining to my work with Chiron. They are selected from a body of work of about 1,500 other articles that the Planet Waves project consists of.

The Chiron articles have been published in a diversity of places, mostly Planet Waves through its different incarnations, sometimes also published in *Chronogram* and *The Mountain Astrologer*.

We have included in the current selection articles that are either specifically about Chiron or which touch on a chirotic theme: healing, mentorship, maverick, hidden cycle, holistic, whole-making, transition, bringing the light of awareness and making conscious choices. Some do not mention astrology but convey one or more of these themes.

Chiron has introduced many new ideas to astrology, some used even by the few astrologers who still leave Chiron out of their charts. This is why I say Chiron has led astrology from behind.

The 'What Is It' Factor

Let's take a moment and address the "what is it" factor. Chiron is a massive comet about 180km across, discovered in 1977 and with photos in the records going back to 1895. Chiron was the first discovered centaur planet, which means that it crosses the orbits of other planets.

[Note that a much earlier discovery, (944) Hidalgo, discovered in 1920, was recently reclassified retroactively as a centaur, though it's not clear when. This seems to have been in the 21st century.]

Chiron has an elongated, elliptical 50.7-year orbit that crosses inside that of Saturn and is considered a Uranus "grazer." To give you an idea of the

shape, Chiron spends 18 months in Libra and nine years in Aries, with other signs getting about four to eight years. Therefore, Chiron acts at times as an inner planet and at others, an outer planet. I cover this in some of the articles below.

As an astrological factor, Chiron responds differently than any previously known object, with its unusual cycle and way of manifesting in awareness. Some people have their first major Chiron event at age 7 and then in the next generation, at age 22. So you have to study the cycle carefully for every client.

Chiron is about direct experience, and how Chiron works in a natal chart is best learned from the experiences of Chiron transits. It is more of a wave than a particle, and it reveals a life-cycle concealed by the more regular and predictable orbits of the other planets. So to understand Chiron, it's necessary to see what you or your client has experienced during Chiron events.

When I started astrology, Chiron (discovered in 1977) had been used by astrologers for less than 15 years, and was still being called "the new planet in your horoscope."

Soon after, I learned of other discoveries in the centaur class. Some of these have made it into this collection, including Pholus, Nessus, Asbolus, Chariklo, Hylonome and others. These are described but not well delineated in some of the included articles, and I have a new collection coming that will provide delineations of about 15 of these points.

However, to understand any other centaur, it's necessary to have a grounded understanding of how Chiron works, for you or for your client.

The Discovery of Eris

In 2005, Eris was discovered. This is an object in the distant Kuiper Belt or Scattered Disk (depending on how you think of it, in any event the outer solar system) that I consider to be the most astrologically relevant since Chiron. Eris was the factor that in 2006 resulted in the "demotion" of Pluto and the creation of the dwarf planet category. Chiron is *not* a dwarf planet; it is a centaur, in a unique orbit.

The 2005 discovery of Eris was predicted by that of 1992-QB1 (discovered in 1992, now called Albion), which I consider a more relevant and groundbreaking *astronomical* discovery and will treat in the next collection. The discovery of QB1 proved that there are planets beyond Pluto, and therefore led to the discovery of Eris. For those interested, I wrote the first monograph about Eris during the winter of 2007, called *Facets and Fragments of Self*. I describe QB1 in the article [Cue: Be One](#).

Eris has become a culture-bearing planet and at the time of this writing, in March 2026, Chiron is making its third and final alignment with Eris. So Eris factors more prominently in this series more than any other planet besides Chiron, particularly toward the end.

Chiron and Eris represent contrary forces in astrology. Eris tends to disrupt, fragment, and tribalize and collectivize people. Chiron helps integrate, awakens holistic awareness, fosters healing and favors individuality and personal service rather than collectivism.

Understanding Chiron Is About Experience

Chiron cannot be learned only in theory; the theory might get you part of the way there, but the only way to learn is from experience. The things you read in books are a starting point for delineation; the truth comes out of your life journey over time.

If you want to learn about Chiron in your own chart, study your Chiron transits. Acquire a Chiron or centaur ephemeris [this was [provided by Melanie Reinhart](#)] or [use one online](#) (or [here is an easy-to-use tool](#) that is currently set for Chiron's position every three months beginning in 1940; modify for more exact placements).

Use Chiron's transits to itself, especially the squares, the opposition and the return; Chiron's transit to the ascendant and the other angles; and Chiron's transits to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Pluto. Suddenly you will have all the information you need.

When you identify a transit, write down your address at the time and then write a little about what you experienced when you were living at that address. Write about 200 words for each address, then read the whole thing back and you will see what Chiron is doing in your chart.

Do this five or 10 times for others and you will start to get a picture of what Chiron is about in a more full-spectrum way, since each experience is individual.

These Articles Here are Presented in Close to Original Form

This series represents something unusual, which is the chronological 30-year arc of my understanding of Chiron. So you will be able to see my thought progression as I learned from much experience in my own life, the lives of my clients, and reading mundane (world event) charts in the Planet Waves series of articles.

I have only made minor edits for clarification or to correct typing errors, and I am sure there will be plenty more to correct for later editions. (Many of these articles were published before we had a formal proofreading and copy editing process and we are slowly going through them.)

The articles are artifacts of their place and time, often written and published as journalism. They all possess an immediacy that will reflect the quality of the moment they were written. Mostly that happened in New York, London, Paris, Brussels and on the west coast of the United States on Vashon Island, Washington.

Links to the original publication are usually provided near the title of any article.

The Wounded Healer and the Initiatory Wound

One final note. In these articles, you will see very little mention of “the wounded healer” trope that is so often used to delineate Chiron. With rare exceptions — and without much discussion — the use of this incomplete and oversimplified phrase indicates that the writer most likely does not really understand Chiron or its purpose.

When taken in a spiritual context, “wounding” pertains to an initiatory or power wound; and it is the purpose of Chiron to transform the healing process into just that, an initiation around which one may gather strength and wisdom. Any life experience can be turned for learning, growth,

understanding and the concentration of ability. The process of working with Chiron is about claiming what you have learned from your life experiences, or as my teacher Joe would say, using what you know. Chiron always presents the option to learn, grow and understand.

It is true that there are people who present themselves as healers and are not doing any of their personal work. But they present themselves as enlightened teachers of enlightenment. So that is a form of a wounded healer, but in no way admirable. Chiron's message to all astrologers and all other practitioners is to *do your work*. And keep doing it. In the myth of Chiron, though injured and suffering, he does his work — some of the best work of his life, in fact, during the most difficult phases, at the end.

This is a different concept from the *unhealed healer*, whose message is always some form of, "You are a miserable sinner and so am I." So if you ever hear someone say "wounded healer," ask them exactly what they mean by that and how it is relevant to them.

Chiron is about traveling the healing journey, which we are all on, as a conscious choice. It's about learning from your experiences, gathering strength around your injuries, transforming victimhood into awareness, and finding your way to your inner truth. Perhaps think of it in the words of A Course in Miracles:

"The journey to God is merely the reawakening of the knowledge of where you are always, and what you are forever. It is a journey without distance to a goal that has never changed. Truth can only be experienced. It cannot be described and it cannot be explained... Together we can meet its conditions, but truth will dawn upon you of itself."

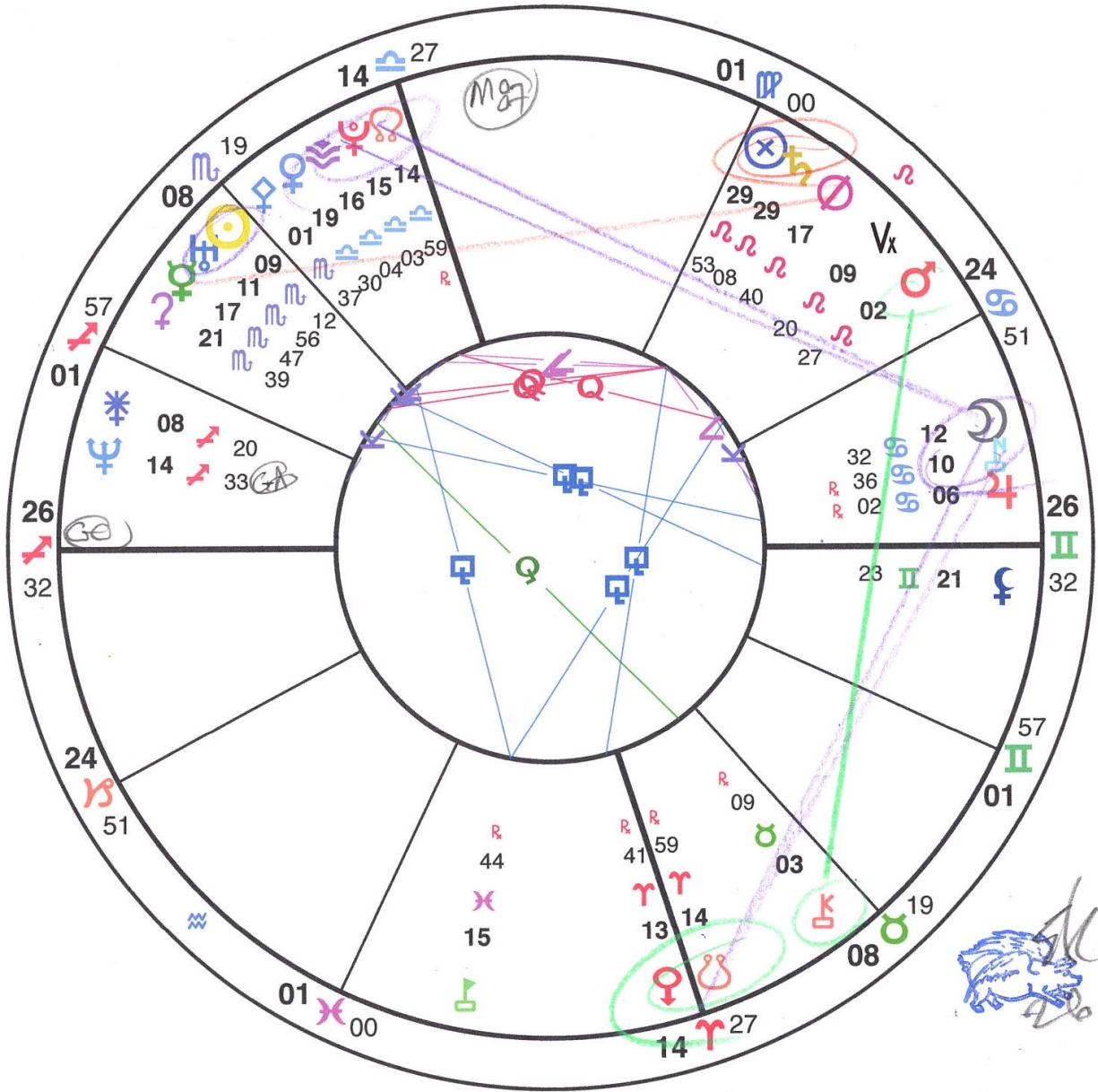
Okay, on with the journey.



— **Eric Francis Coppelino**
Greene County, NY, March 3, 2026

Discovery of Chiron by Kowal

Natal Chart
Tuesday, November 1, 1977
10:02:09 AM PST
Pasadena, California
Tropical Koch True Node



I have rectified this chart by about two minutes past the stated discovery time of 10 am to align the ascendant with the exact position of the Galactic Core on the day of the Chiron discovery.

Mysterious Object Beyond Saturn May Be Solar System's 10th Planet

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

Astronomers have discovered an object between Saturn and Uranus that is orbiting the sun. They say the object could represent a new class of asteroid or perhaps be the solar system's 10th and smallest planet.

The discovery was announced yesterday by Charles Kowal, an astronomer at the Hale Observatories in Pasadena, Calif. He detected the object through the 48-inch Schmidt telescope on Mount Palomar. Other astronomers have subsequently confirmed the observation.

Mr. Kowal said in a telephone interview that the object "really doesn't resemble anything else we have seen."

The suspicion that the object is a planet, he said, derives less from its size than from the fact that it is far beyond the usual region of asteroids—small, irregular pieces of material that also orbit the sun, but mostly in a belt between Mars and Jupiter. Its orbit and appearance also seem unlike those of a comet.

It does not appear to come close enough to neighboring planets to be an escaped moon, the astronomer said. And, because it is so small—100 to 400 miles in diameter, about one-tenth the size of Mercury, the smallest known planet—the object is temporarily being described as a "mini-planet."

Dr. Brian G. Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., called the discovery "very unusual and certainly very exciting."

Depending on what the object turns out to be, Dr. Marsden said in a telephone interview, it could be "the second major exciting discovery in the outer solar system this year." The other was finding that Uranus, like Saturn, is encircled by rings.

When the Uranus rings were first observed last March, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said they

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Chiron on page one of the New York Times, a week after the discovery.

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The Catskills as seen from the mountain where the Chironian is located directly below, facing westerly. Photo by Eric Francis, c. 2004.

Chiron: A Personal Account

The Worlds of Eric Francis

July 1996

[Link to original](#)

On the way out of my house this morning, I picked up the Course in Miracles, flopped it open somewhere in the middle and started reading:

'To have faith is to heal. It is the sign that you have accepted the Atonement for yourself and would therefore share it. By faith, you offer the gift of freedom from the past which you perceived. You do not use anything your brother has done before to condemn him. You freely choose to overlook his errors, looking past all barriers between

you and him, and seeing you both as one. And in that one you see your faith is fully justified. There is no justification for faithlessness, but faith is always justified."

This reminded me about a personal astrology story I want to share with you. Ten years ago last month, my life became a quest for faith, though this happened, as it often does, because I had run out of options. I was 22 years old, and everything, every aspect of my life, had become a crisis.

My relationships were doing somersaults and making me look at my values about love for the first time, I was in love with three people, and suffering from an incredible amount of guilt over sex. Plus, I was sick with a painful skin condition, graduating from college and leaving my well-developed college community with no sense of direction in life, and, in the middle of this, I had a devastating experience on the drug Ecstasy, which left me incapacitated for a week.

Meanwhile, I was caught in a major political war at the local level, it was becoming obvious that politics — where I had invested most of my faith in humanity — were rotten at the national level, and Chernobyl was burning, spewing radiation across the planet as far away from Kiev as Kansas. In the days after the initial explosion, I was so sick, either from shock or radiation, that I couldn't get out of bed.

Everything that needed healing, every belief, issue, personality trait, and personal flaw, had come up to the surface, where I could not deny it.

It was also an incredibly exciting time, where, in the throes of uncertainty, I began to feel like I was alive for the first time ever. The reality of spirit was flashing through my world and the worlds of the people around me, consuming us in its flames.

My life after that point was different than anything I had ever envisioned. My early career goals had been things like becoming a U.S. senator or editor of *Time* magazine. Suddenly, in my

hunger for passion and truth, none of that mattered; a whole new values system had taken over my life.

It was not until many years and many adventures later that I checked the astrology of that time period 10 years ago, and learned that a planet (really a huge comet) called Chiron was involved and that all of these events, peaking with my college graduation, coincided, to the day, degree and minute with a turning point called the *first Chiron square*, which happens at two or three in critical points in a lifetime. It is happening to a great many people right now because Chiron is very close to the Sun, at the fast side of his orbit.

[For astrologers: Chiron will sweep through the next 22 degrees of Libra and into Scorpio in just 6 months, making hard aspects for anyone with Chiron in the last 22 degrees of a Cardinal sign. If you are reading for a client with an approaching Chiron square, opposition or return, keep in mind the significance of the turning point in the person's life, and how the transit will trigger all the issues of the natal Chiron position, and many others.]

When I noticed this incredible synchronicity between my Chiron square and these events in my life, I began learning about both Chiron astrology and the process by which we learn to have faith, which are very similar.

Chiron describes the ability of human beings to break free from prevailing belief systems, and come into their true freedom. He is a unique being in mythology d' half-man, half-horse, who is a healer, musician, astrologer, herbalist, sacred warrior and guardian of the Earth. For Chiron, freedom means the freedom to serve Humanity with our sacred gifts, while living a full and well-rounded life.

He was the first Centaur, a man directly connected to his animal nature. His students included Prometheus, who brought the power of fire — living spirit — to the Human race.

Growing in one's faith, an issue directly connected to Chiron, is largely about recognizing our true worth as human beings, and remembering that we are not alone here. Help is available when we need it, and love is all around us.

Chiron is practical. His two most basic lessons are *be kind* and *pay attention*. His glyph, which looks like a key, appears next to my name in the printed version of this newsletter each month — and as a rotating icon on this web site — as a reminder to me, because I consider his example to be the most consistent and uplifting in all the mythology and wisdom of modern astrology. He is always a gentle teacher, and if you're experiencing anything but gentleness in your life, look to yourself for the source.

During the month of July 1996, Chiron is extremely prominent in the skies for all of us, bringing all of his lessons to the forefront of consciousness. On July 27, he forms a conjunction with the North Node of the Moon. This is a time when real breakthroughs are possible in any area of your life with which you've been struggling — particularly personal relationships and a sense of balance. If you are a healer of any kind, it is a profoundly important time to make headway in your art. Under Chiron's influence, crisis is always a tool for becoming whole, and often a necessary part, so if things are rough, stick with it, and envision things better. That's the whole point: learning to have faith.

Surely, during this incredible time in human history, when so much seems balanced on so little, there's not much else we can really rely on.

Chiron and Shamanism

The Worlds of Eric Francis

August 1996

[Link to original](#)

The Shaman archetype is a familiar character from the adventures of Carlos Castaneda, who studied sorcery under the elusive, enigmatic don Juan Matus. In recent years, no doubt partly inspired by the bestselling don Juan series of books, "Shamanism" has taken root in the spiritually-conscious community as an important mode of healing and being.

By Shamanism, I'm not speaking about the indigenous practice of North American Indians, but rather the cross-cultural archetype which shows up as the medicine man, seer, holistic healer, sacred teacher and spiritual guide. It is not really an "ism" or organized set of beliefs. Rather, it's about learning from experience.

In 1977, the Shaman arrived on the astrological scene. What astronomers thought was a planet was sighted and named Chiron by its discoverer, Charles Kowal. (Later it turned out to be a huge comet orbiting the Sun between Saturn and Uranus, but according to Chiron researcher Barbara Hand Clow, the original announcement that it was a planet spurred rapid response from the astrological community.)

Chiron is best known as the famed physician of Greek mythology. But as the first Centaur, or half-man, half-horse, he was no ordinary being and no ordinary doctor. Chiron was also the astrologer and teacher of metaphysics to the Greek gods, as well as a skilled practitioner of a variety of holistic and hands-on healing arts, and a sacred warrior, and a musician.

His students included Achilles, Jason and even Aesculapius, the god of healing and medicine.

Later in his life, Chiron sustained a wound that baffled all his expertise and skill as a healer, in which his hoof was accidentally cut by a spear poisoned with the blood of the Hydra, the many-headed woman. Accounts of the incident differ, but according to all versions, he suffered for many years while working unsuccessfully to heal the injury, though because he was immortal his wound could not kill him.

He eventually surrendered his immortality in an arrangement made with the gods, in which he was released from his eternal suffering, and ascended into the constellation Sagittarius. In exchange, Prometheus was released from his eternal suffering chained to the rock on Mount Caucasus, where a vulture ate his self-renewing liver every day as punishment for bringing the fire-light of spirit to humans.

Two of the most important marks of the Shaman are shared by Chiron: that he or she is in some way radically different than everyone else (Chiron was the first of all Centaurs), and having sustained a wound which she or he had to heal and overcome in order to attain true power. Often it is an early wound that sets a person on a Shamanic path; Chiron's involved total rejection by his mother, who was so disgusted by the horse-child she had just birthed that she asked to be turned into a tree.

In the case of don Juan, his early wounding involved the brutality and racism he witnessed in the white man's treatment of the Yaqui Indians.

My favorite example of a Chirotic wound is from the life of the late Jerry Garcia, the chiming, ringing guitarist of the Grateful Dead, whose right middle finger was accidentally amputated by his brother in a wood-cutting accident when he was a child. Garcia has commented that it was this wound that prompted him to take up the banjo, which led to his playing guitar and then ultimately becoming a profound influence, with help from the

mythical, alchemical lyrics of Robert Hunter, in the lives of millions of people worldwide.

So it's no big surprise that in addition to representing the specific healing powers of the native, Chiron represents the wounding we sustain in life that teaches us how to be powerful, and those crises in life which teach us the most about the reality of spirit and the power of faith. And this is the essential path of the Shaman, who always goes through some extremely traumatic crisis or near-death experience which sets him or her on their unique path toward self-mastery.

Chiron and Holistic Consciousness

Chiron's influence has been so great that modern language is replete with references to his name in the context of healing and psychic arts. Barbara Hand Clow writes in her book *Chiron: Rainbow Bridge Between the Inner and Outer Planets*:

Chiral means the polarization of light from one hand to the other; *chiromancy* is reading of the hand or palmistry; *chiropractic* is healing of the joints and bones by means of manipulation; *chirothesia* is energy in the hands during sacred rites; a blessing with the hands is *chirotony*; and *chiurgery* is an ancient usage which became surgery.

The theme of hands-on healing is crucial to Chiron's manifestations in the world, and any healing art which uses direct contact between the patient and healer would come under his astrological influence or rulership.

The sighting and naming of planets runs parallel to emerging movements in the culture, as if the planet somehow appears in material form, is named (by an astronomer or someone else who has no connection to astrology) at the same time a body of knowledge, awareness, major discovery or other advancement following the themes of the planetary archetype is emerging within the collective consciousness.

In Chiron's case, around 1977, the holistic arts were beginning to get serious attention and holistic consciousness was taking root in American culture. Many spiritual communities and centers were created. The concept of bodymind began to be understood on a more mainstream level, and practices like acupuncture, massage therapy, chiropractic, homeopathy and a variety of others were moving from fringe and folk-art status toward mainstream acceptance by society.

It's not that these are new technologies, but that their current proliferation represents a special phenomenon of our times.

Today, with HMOs providing acupuncturists, medical doctors prescribing chiropractic and massage therapy and MDs doubling as homeopaths, we can see how far we've come since the days when the American Medical Association had to be sued for under antitrust laws for a proven conspiracy to discredit chiropractors — a lawsuit that was finally settled in the early 90s when the AMA, which lost, finally exhausted all its appeals.

We have a long way to go, of course, because holistic medicine is not readily available to most of the society and there's not much accurate information about it available to the general population, but something has clearly taken root. For example, recent surveys published by the media indicate that the majority of Americans would consider alternative medicine in addition to or instead of allopathic medicine.

The holistic healer fits the Shaman archetype because he or she is able to use more Earth-grounded methods, such as herbs, crystals or in particular their hands, for healing the individual. He or she is working in several different dimensions, such as the meeting place between mind and body in the case of a massage therapist, invisible, subtle energy meridians in the case of an acupuncturist, or vibrational medicine in the case of a homeopath.

In my experience, most holistic practitioners are also generally much more spiritually conscious than doctors and provide

spiritual information as well as medical information to their clients.

And, like Shamanism, most holistic methods of healing transcend strict rationality. A massage therapist will work with the concept that a client's early sexual trauma might be stored in the thigh, and a homeopath prescribes a quantity of a drug so small that modern science would say it is not there. But at the same time, the Shaman is able proceed with his or her work despite being different, cross between the dimensions, call in spiritual assistance, and help the client effect changes that most scientists and medical professionals would likely think were impossible.

The Astrologer-Shaman

It's remarkable to me that before Chiron, there were no astrologers represented in the astrological chart. So with the addition of Chiron, we can take astrology to new levels of practice, power and self-awareness. And we have a role model for an astrologer whose practice is grounded in a variety of healing arts.

Chiron practiced astrology but also taught it to his students, accentuating the role of astrologer as teacher.

Astrology is a system for integrating all the seemingly separate levels of reality: mundane, spiritual, energetic, physical, archetypal and others. Like Shamanism, it crosses between the dimensions and levels of reality, in considering, for example, how the placement of the Moon, which is theoretically a big rock, influences emotional the life of a human being. So for the astrologer using Chiron or working (knowingly or not) under his influence, astrology is about effecting conscious dimensional shifts with the client; bringing the hidden to light, where it can be resolved, explored or used.

And reading Chiron's placement in the chart means using the client's early wounding as the most accessible tool for their healing. Chiron in the first house can, for example, signify a

severely damaged sense of self and a crisis over whether a person has a right to exist. Yet if this crisis is addressed, and it is likely to be at some level, then the person develops a dynamic, charismatic personality and a strong sense of their own presence in the world.

Chiron is associated with synchronicities and here-now consciousness, both of which are extraordinarily important in astrology -- particularly horary astrology, in which the astrologer divines off of the moment in time when a question is asked.

By grounding in the here/now, the astrologer is also able to move through time, reach into the past or the future, and look at the energetic influences found there. Like the Shaman, he or she might be practicing some form of soul retrieval, moving with the client, through the present, into the distant past to find the person's essential self that was damaged by a trauma, take hold of its essence and bring it back into present consciousness.

Chiron is also very prominent in many death and near-death charts, indicating his natural tendency to move between the worlds, offer protection, and at times deliverance in the form of death as the final healing from unbearable pain.

One of my clients, who had no knowledge of astrology or of Chiron, recently related a story to me in which she was caring for a dying friend in Manhattan. She heard a galloping horse one night, which seemed strange in the crowded city.

The second night the horse was trotting, and the third, when her friend died, the horse was walking slowly. She walked toward the room where she heard the sound and had a third-eye vision of a bald centaur, identical to the one depicted on the cover of *Chiron and the Healing Journey* by Melanie Reinhart — though years before the book was published. She described this being as exuding such power, she could barely look straight at him.

All such "paranormal" phenomena, multidimensional experiences and reports of non-medical healing come together with

holographic theory, which is being explored by doctors, physicists and metaphysicians as a means of explaining how the brain works, how the universe is constructed and how psychic phenomena happen.

Perhaps the Shaman, the homeopath, the massage therapist, the astrologer, the psychic healer or the acupuncturist, are able to help heal the sick, retrieve the soul, or free a person from the grip of evil spirits because they understand that reality is a hologram, a kind of elaborate energetic illusion subject to very subtle forms of energy -- a fact Chiron seems to have no problem with at all.

Welcome to the Youniverse

Several days ago, I ran across an article in the *New York Times* that was so incredible I just had to tell you about it. It seems some scientists in Hawaii got jobs looking out to the edge of the universe with a big telescope, which is a great gig if I ever heard of one. Since it takes a long time for light to get to Hawaii from the brink of reality, all you can really see through the telescope are things that happened a long time ago. Like, billions of years ago. Pretty cool, right? We can look out across space and see backwards in time.

Sort of like looking at Bill Clinton with binoculars and seeing Cleopatra.

Here's the strange part: the scientists found a galaxy at the edge of time that's older than they were sure the universe itself is, an old galaxy in a young part of space. This has caused great confusion in their midsts, to say the least. They had all these neat theories about how things work, the way the universe is constructed, how it started, and how it will end, and now all of a sudden they discover a massive astro-archeological artifact in space and have an equally huge contradiction on their hands — one that's causing them to completely rethink everything they thought they knew.

The discovery has "profound implications concerning the fate of the universe," the *Times* reported nonchalantly.

More amazing still is the fact that I found this item about the fate of the universe buried on page B-12 on a Thursday, stuck in the back of the Metro News section, as if people in Manhattan are the only ones who care about this kind of thing, or as though it's just too trippy for page one.

In other news: Scientists peeking through the Hubble Space Telescope say they are now aware of an additional 40 billion galaxies in the universe.

And in local news, astronomers have discovered that there are thousands or millions of little planets buzzing around outside Pluto's orbit. Dubbed the "Kuiper Belt," it's causing astronomers to go over a lot of their assumptions about our little Solar System.

If you're wondering what this has to do with you, I would propose that it's only because the word "universe" is actually misspelled. It should be "Youniverse," because the "universe" is meaningless without you. You are an integral part of the Youniverse despite many popular versions of cosmology that describe Humanity as so much space debris.

But you're also the central point of perception, the witness to everything that happens, the interpreter, the evaluator and the experiencer of life. You are the Youniverse.

By perceiving and being part of the whole, you contain the whole. It's exceedingly likely that your consciousness activates the events of the world around you in a kind of co-creation in which your attitude is the biggest variable.

We see this happen all the time. If you love life, life becomes lovable, and not just in your imagination. If you truly feel secure, you'll live on a safe planet. And if you think you should work at a job you hate for \$5 an hour, you'll certainly get to do that. Yet

the same mechanism that drives these little facts of life may also influence much greater events, and it also works on the collective scale. Our common beliefs and expectations create our common world.

Far from being something I made up yesterday, these are time-honored spiritual truths; but now they are facts being borne out by physicists, brain researchers and people who investigate psychic phenomena. Not that proof matters; it's easy enough to demonstrate for yourself by changing your mind about something and seeing your entire reality shift.

In astrology, where the inner and outer worlds meet in a fireworks display of synchronicity, we know that the stranger and further away newly discovered celestial bodies are, the more deeply they reach into the collective psyche. Several new discoveries in this century, including Pluto and Chiron, have taken astrology lightyears from where it was just decades ago.

These discoveries provide strikingly private information and helpful insights when cast in personal horoscopes and read by people tuned to their energies.

At one level, our telescopes are the tentacles of our consciousness, reaching through the darkness and grasping the unknown — a limitless, seemingly "outer" space filled with nothing but possibilities and mysteries that slowly unfold. As they point outward, the minds that receive the information have the potential to become deeper — or just more open — in order to understand ourselves and the relationship between the inner and outer depths.

As you venture out/in there, expect to find some things in yourself that defy common sense and leave you astonished. Expect a few puzzling contradictions. And look forward to those rare discoveries that blow apart all your theories about who you think you are.

Sounding the Clarion: Chiron and the Environment

The Worlds of Eric Francis

June 1997

[Link to original](#)

To astrologers, astronomical discoveries are harbingers, the forerunners of history. On Nov. 1, 1977, a small planet outside the orbit of Saturn, later named Chiron, was noticed by astronomers for the first time. Many astrologers who have since worked with Chiron, named after the famed Centaur physician of Greek mythology, have observed how it is associated with a variety of holistic issues, including the process of growing whole through wounding and healing, and the similar process of empowerment through struggle and overcoming extreme or persistent difficulties.

In her ground-breaking book, *Chiron: Rainbow Bridge Between the Inner and Outer Planets*, Barbara Hand Clow suggests the compelling idea that Chiron is directly associated with the environment, proposing that our environmental crisis is really a holistic wound that we all bear as individuals. Sighted in the Earth-sign Taurus, deeply associated with the Earth-sign Virgo, and ruling issues of holistic health, the connection is easy to make, especially if you happen to notice that the Earth's environment is the holism of all known life.

With Chiron providing the bridge between what occurs to the collective (often the realm of the outer planets) and the individual (more in the realm of inner planets), Chiron is the meeting place, or the junction where the two intersect. In practical terms, the

place where environmental health meets holistic issues might be an individual becoming sick as a result of pollution or a mass-contamination, and then taking control of his or her life and getting well by practicing holistic living.

History often tells a big part of the story when we are investigating the meaning of new planets. Looking at the unprecedented events which immediately preceded the discovery of Chiron, it's clear that Chiron's appearance coincided with a birth of wide-scale awareness of actual environmental issues, rather than the abstract concepts of "ecology" and "loving the Earth" that were first popularized in the 1960s. The 1970s were a period of environmental emergency after emergency, in the truest sense of the word — an "emergence" of events that had silently been in formation for many decades. And these things happened on a terrifying scale that was previously undreamed of by most people. Consider that:

In July 1976, a pressurized industrial chemical- reactor exploded in Seveso, Italy, spreading several pounds of an extremely potent chemical waste substance called 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzo-dioxin (now known simply as dioxin), over a large urban area, poisoning thousands of residents and inducing a documented outbreak of cancer. The Seveso reactor was part of the manufacturing process of a disinfectant called hexachlorophene, then the active ingredient in Dial soap and also a surgical skin detergent called pHisoHex. Hexachlorophene was later banned in the U.S. because it contained dioxin contamination, which can induce cancer at the unthinkable small concentration of just five parts-per-trillion.

On Oct. 11, 1976, Congress enacted the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which theoretically opened the way for government regulation of a broad range of man-made toxic industrial chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), an intentionally-manufactured cousin of dioxin. Despite a ban on PCB production, contamination continues to

spread virtually unchecked, devastating wildlife, human health and the environment to the present day.

On August 25, 1977, just weeks before Chiron's sighting, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it had found "deficiencies" in safety studies conducted by Industrial Bio-Test Labs of Northbrook, Illinois, a private lab which the agency said had done "several thousand studies for pesticide manufacturers on whether their products cause ill effects such as cancer, birth defects, nerve damage or metabolic problems."

When the proportions of the IBT Labs "deficiencies" were finally known, the world was witnessing the largest scandal in scientific history unfold, as it came to light that IBT and numerous other private labs had forged or fudged the scientific safety data for almost every chemical product on the market, and had been paid handsomely by America's corporations to do the job.

Three IBT Labs officials were finally convicted of fraud after the longest criminal trial in U.S. history, though many of the chemicals that were fraudulently approved are still served at the dinner table twenty years later.

Then came Chiron on Nov. 1 1977.

More incredible historical events, many involving dioxin contamination, unfolded in the months and years after Chiron's sighting, including the evacuation of the infamous Love Canal neighborhood in Niagara Falls, NY, the evacuation and demolition of the *entire town* of Times Beach, Missouri, and the Agent Orange class action lawsuits by thousands of Vietnam War veterans, whose dioxin exposure had caused severe diseases in them and many of their children.

Indeed, the advent of Chiron came with the momentary awareness that environmentally, we are in big trouble. This was

followed by a well-documented campaign of lies and distortions by the chemical manufacturers and the media which lulled the nation back to sleep for much of the next two decades, as government, the press and the manufacturers forged closer and closer alliances.

Chiron's Chiron Opposition

On Sept. 28 1997, just shy of twenty years after the sighting, Chiron reaches the exact opposition point to its own natal position. Called the "Chiron opposition," this transit always represents a critical turning point in individual human lives. It represents, for many people, a new birth of consciousness often induced by seemingly "outer" life events and experiences, but it is always a crisis of consciousness, a set of life circumstances which awareness is the most powerful key to dealing with. Like the initial sighting of Chiron, the event Sept. 28, 1997 is a collective occurrence, not an individual one, with implications for the entire culture.

Chiron's Chiron opposition occurs in the sign Scorpio, the zodiac's dark mansion of secrets — particularly the secrets of death and reproduction. Dioxin, PCBs and many related chemicals we eat and drink every day attack the reproductive system, causing hormonal imbalances, birth defects, multi-generational sexual cancers, and numerous other illnesses of the reproductive system. Many of these diseases are eventually fatal. With the close association of sexuality and death, we are deep in the heart of darkest Scorpio.

Following this theme of secrecy, most of this century there has been a very effective campaign waged by the chemical polluters, aided by the mainstream "scientific" community and the mass media, to keep this information hidden (I will provide a bibliography of exposès to anyone who contacts me). And while it's true that most of the public is clueless, these Scorpionic secrets of sexuality and death are common knowledge among a

handful of activists across the country who have researched, documented and preserved the information.

Most of them are very Chironic people — people unafraid to stand out, to face the facts and challenge powerful institutions. From my reporting relationships with them, I can tell you that they are all *mavericks*, one of the first keywords ever ascribed to Chiron. And they have the obsessive Virgo qualities that it takes to amass and catalog thousands of corporate documents and newspaper clippings for 30 years.

The question is, when is the mass public going to find out the truth? The Chiron opposition occurs in Scorpio near the cusp of the 10th and 11th houses, the most public angle of the horoscope. Chiron itself represents consciousness.

So it would seem to follow that the opposition phase is a time of growing mass awareness of the carefully guarded secrets that environmental chemicals induce problems of a Scorpionic nature — premature death and reproductive diseases. Certainly, the unforeseen advent of the Internet has helped with this, as environmental information is more readily available there than it is anywhere.

Indeed, despite vehement efforts to conceal the truth by the mass-media and the corporations which hold liability for destroying the Earth's environment, it's slowly coming to light that dioxin, PCBs, pesticides and a wide variety of other chemicals are wreaking what you might call a quiet molecular holocaust, upsetting the body's, that is, the biosphere's, hormone system and hence its reproductive system.

This information is available today, but you have to look for it. If you read journals like *Sierra*, subscribe to *Rachel's Health and Environment Weekly* on the Internet, or know about books like *Our Stolen Future* by Dr. Theo Colborn, you've no doubt heard of it. If you get your information from *The New York Times*, you're probably pretty confused about how serious the problem is. Many

people will find out about this for the first time from reading this article.

Dioxin and PCBs are not the only chemicals that cause these reproductive problems. Others include toxins that leach from plastic food and water packaging, tin can liners, numerous drugs including the birth control pill, and a particular spermicide called nonoxynol-9 that's become very popular in recent history due to the immune disease called "AIDS" (ironically, dioxin and its relatives are all severely immune-suppressing).

Stated simply, we are all awash in an ocean of artificial female hormones. These synthetic hormones feminize species — they literally make both the males and the females more biologically feminine — and as a result, mess up reproductive processes (for example, they are very likely behind the fact that sperm counts in men of today are half the level of our grandfathers').

We have all heard whisperings of this. And herein lies the crisis of consciousness that the culture is currently going through. Mass-awareness of the environmental crisis is hindered by the press, but it's also hindered by a rather pervasive denial, because the recognition that the world is contaminated is very painful. It requires us to change — to stop smoking, change our diets, exercise more, move out of urban areas, or in the alternative, live with the idea that we are voluntarily poisoning ourselves.

Either we learn more and are compelled to action, or we must raise the defense of denial to a higher and higher pitch. For many people who don't pay attention, and unfortunately, some that do, the Chironic consciousness often comes in the form of a physical healing crisis such as asthma, breast cancer, sterility, a deformed child or similar environmentally-induced problem that forces the recognition that *we are part of our environment*.

While present dioxin background levels are already known to cause serious problems, you may not be impressed by this if you feel healthy. (The "background level" is what you're exposed to if

you don't do anything else in particular to get more, like live on a hazardous waste dump. Most of America lives within four miles of one, incidentally). But that may be a tolerable fact until barrels start popping up in your backyard, the men in moon suits arrive at your door to evacuate you for a few days, your two-year old child gets leukemia, or someone wants to install a PCB incinerator on the next block.

You may not mind that a PCB incinerator exists in Kansas, but the fact that one is going in next door might wake you up to the reality of the problem. So that would create a healing crisis for you and your community — either you fight, or you live with the poisons. As the second half of Chiron's cycle unfolds, it's clear that more and more people will be put in this position. Chemical companies make dioxin, but in this way they also make environmental activists.

In my own life, the Chiron opposition represented a major personal triumph — one felt by more than half a million people around the world — after a long environmental and political struggle. Prior to my Saturn return in 1991, the hand of darkness struck my community as six PCB-filled electrical transformers exploded and burned up. Government agencies went into cover-up mode immediately.

A local journalist, I did my job, followed my instincts and started investigating. At first, much of the community treated me like a political dissident. I spent my Saturn return fighting criminal charges that stemmed from my legitimate reporting activities, and litigating (as the plaintiff) a federal First Amendment lawsuit for the right to cover the story. Slowly, I grew up and grew strong.

Within one week of my Chiron opposition, as Chiron (transiting through Virgo) crossed my Pluto-nadir conjunction and opposed my Mars-Chiron-midheaven conjunction, my investigative feature on the fifty-year history of the PCB and dioxin cover-up was published on the cover of Sierra magazine (send me a SASE if

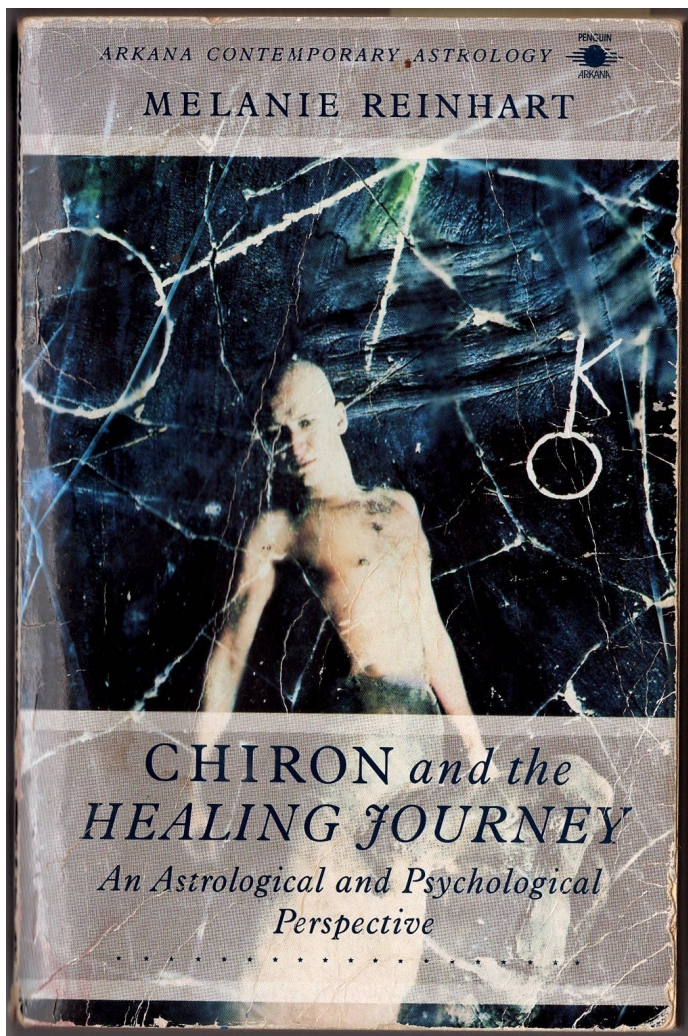
you want a copy). As an environmental harbinger, Chiron's Chiron opposition this fall reminds me of the most famous seven words of Winston Churchill: "Never give up. Never, ever give up."

A Visit From Chiron

The Worlds of Eric Francis

April 1998

[Link to original](#)



At the end of a recent astrological session, I handed my client a copy of the book *Chiron and the Healing Journey* by Melanie Reinhart.

The session had focused on the client's Chiron return, an event-of-passage that happens to people when they reach about 51 years old.

Holding the book in her hands, looking at the cover, she suddenly began to cry.

I sat with her and waited until she settled herself, and then asked her what was up. She told me this story. A few years earlier, she had been called to Manhattan to tend to the last days' care of a dying friend. Late one night, she heard a horse galloping in the streets of the city.

It seemed unusual for a horse to be moving so quickly along the streets, and so audibly that she could hear it inside a brownstone, but she didn't think much of it at the time, given the other

circumstances of her life. The next night, she heard the hoof beats of the same horse, only it was moving more slowly, at a trot.

On the third night, from the kitchen, she heard the horse slow to a stop very close to the apartment. She walked out to the main room, and experienced a vision of what she described as a 40-foot-tall centaur — a creature that is half-human, half-horse — standing before her.

The human part of the figure was bald and without clothing, and joined at the waist by the horse's body. She had no idea what she was looking at, and while the creature did not seem malicious, she was struck by what she described as its awesome power, and was quite shaken at the sight of the huge, unworldly being standing in front of her. Her friend died that night.

She said the illustration on the cover of Melanie's book was unmistakably of this creature: Chiron, the first centaur, and astrologically, the namesake of the first centaur planet, which was discovered in 1977. We had just spent the better part of the evening discussing the effects of Chiron in her life, tracking her development through various passages that culminated with the Chiron return she was now experiencing.

Seeing the image, the circle was complete — she recognized Chiron and understood more fully what she had experienced. For me, a different circle was complete: the knowledge that Chiron can manifest anywhere in very bold ways, whether there's an "astrological" basis for it or not.

Chiron was the master healer of Greek mythology. His disciplines included herbalism, surgery, chiropractic, battlefield medicine, ethics, music, and astrology. He was a devoted teacher of these skills, and his students, many of the great heroes of ancient Greece, included Esclepius, the Greek god of medicine. His influences on Western language and culture have been wide and

deep, and most Greek words and concepts involving the hands or healing with the hands derive from Chiron's name.

A contemporary of the Olympian generation of gods, he was the only practicing astrologer and astrology teacher among them, one fact alone that should call attention of those who are involved in the practice. One of the greatest mysteries among astrologers is how astrology works; any astrologer seriously making the inquiry would benefit from closely looking at Chiron's process in their life and those of their clients, and check your Chiron transits at the time you decided to become an astrologer or begin your studies.

The location and aspecting of Chiron in an astrological chart speaks to the process of wounding and healing that we all go through on the way to becoming whole, integrated people. Chiron's process is akin to what we now understand as "shamanic wounding," a process through which the most powerful teachers and visionaries of the tribe are initiated into their seemingly higher — in reality multidimensional — consciousness. Recognition of the fact of Chiron makes it clear that shamanic wounding is a process that all humans partake in.

Through Chiron, we learn that we are not just here to suffer, but rather to grow through our struggles and experience ourselves beyond the role of victim. We learn to see through the veils of illusion that separate us from God (which is my world for essential existence). Major passages of Chiron in the lifetime indicate trigger points for transition into power, consciousness, and very often, into the desire and ability to heal ourselves and facilitate healing for others through our compassion and our use of trained skills and technologies.

Adding Chiron to astrology compels us to rethink astrology, including its purpose, why it works, and the most effective ways to practice the craft. Essentially, considering Chiron puts astrologers in the position of needing to understand that people come to them primarily for healing, and therefore, whether we like it or not, whether we think we are suited for it or not,

facilitating the healing process is the purpose we serve. People believe astrologers have a special cosmic connection, and come to us honoring that perception. Responding to this calling takes astrologers out of the realm of magicians, fortune tellers, "psychics," and prognosticators (readers of the future) and casts us in a far more serious role.

Considering Chiron grounds astrologers solidly in the reality that our craft is legitimate, necessary and time-honored; that it's part of a much broader spectrum of healing arts; and that it can be both used and abused in a wide variety of ways. What has the power to heal also has the power to wound.

Astrologers who want to work with Chiron need to invest a lot of energy into their own growth process, which turns astrology into a whole-life art. Striving for balance, clarity, honesty and a genuine state of holistic health are vital parts of the process of existing in the role of assisting others. Gone are the days of overweight, smoking, wheezing psychics giving health advice.

Rethinking the use of astrology as a predictive tool is a vital part of honoring Chiron as well. Through Chiron's astrological lens, the future is merely an effect of the present. In other words, the future, which does not exist yet, is caused by something, and that something is happening now.

It may be an attitude, a belief, an idea, a set of circumstances, a relationship or a desire. Very often, the future as it unfolds is *caused by an astrological reading* because the reading is a creative process initiated by "two or more people" gathering in the name of truth, and the process gets results. So more than understanding or decoding the future, which it's not really possible to understand, it's the job of astrologers and astrology students to understand what is happening **now** and see the opportunities of the present for what they are and how they would impact the future.

This means that it's the job of astrologers to do more listening than talking, and to ask a lot more questions than they provide answers. Astrology through the eyes of Chiron, for example, does not assume that the reader knows the client when he or she knows their chart; it's up to the astrologer to let the client explain his or her chart by asking a series of questions based on the chart. In this listening process, a pattern to the events of the life will start to emerge.

This will begin to create a picture of the cause of what is happening now, and astrology will serve as a means of focusing and clarifying the information as it comes in, and guiding the astrologer about what subjects and time periods to ask about. Astrology is a lot better for asking questions than it is for creating answers, though we need them both in the same place.

Cause and effect are never separate, but in order to make real changes, the cause must change first. This sounds obvious, but it is not the way most astrology is currently practiced. Once the cause of a situation is discovered, then healing is possible.

Healing from what? From our carefully cultivated self-hatred. From our boredom with ourselves and our partners. From our sexual guilt and frustration. From our isolation from God and fear of death. From our sense of having no options. From our rage and depression and our badly wounded ability to express joy and passion. From the belief that our lives are little and meaningless.

And most important, the freedom from healing itself. Life is a creative process, and what we call healing is just the first step on the way to a lot more.

Chiron 2001

Planet Waves

2000

[Link to original](#)

Overview of Chiron

The Centaur planet Chiron is an astrological force for healing, transformation, service, spiritual growth and the lifelong process of becoming aware that some call enlightenment. In a word, it could be summed up as "holistic," which means making whole. Everyone has Chiron in his or her personal natal chart, which may be in a more or less emphasized position.

At different times in our lives we are under the influence of Chiron by transit, and learning about these transits is the purpose of Part Two this article, after the introductory materials which follow in Part One. In the second part, I will also include links to last year's materials on Chiron, as well as any links to my prior articles that are still available, and to some by other writers.

Chiron, a physical object orbiting our Sun, was the first major discovery of an object after Pluto in 1930. Discovered by Charles Kowal Nov. 1, 1977 (from a photo taken several days earlier), you probably did not learn about Chiron in science class, and most astrologers still do not recognize Chiron as a "legitimate" planetary influence, much less an important one. Yet many astrologers did not consider Pluto a legitimate planet until the 1970s, though its existence had been known for 40-plus years; this, despite its clear associations with the social progress,

creative eruptions and cultural upheavals of the late 1960s. Though Chiron was finally discovered in 1977, pre-discovery photos exist from as early as 1895. In other words, though it had been photographed repeatedly by observatories, it was not actually noticed, catalogued and named till nearly a century later.

Chiron is relatively small, about 160-180 kilometers across, and has properties of a planet, an asteroid, a comet and a Pluto-like object. It defies simple classification, borrowing different attributes from pre-existing categories, crossing the orbit of Saturn and extending almost out to the orbit of Uranus.

It rounds the Sun in an elongated path that takes 50.7 years to complete. Because of this elongation, it stays in Libra for just 18 months while taking 9 years to cross Aries, being in the other signs for approximately two to seven years. This creates unusual patterns in our lives which may go unnoticed until we check out the timing of Chiron transits and their corresponding life events.

After the announcement of the discovery, a few astrologers took an immediate interest in Chiron. Among the first was Zane Stein, who was given the first ephemeris (zodiac position table) for Chiron by astronomer Dr. Brian Marsden shortly after the discovery. This allowed Chiron to be placed in the horoscopes of Zane's clients so that he could research its meaning.

Dr. Marsden's cooperation with the learning goals of an astrologer would prove to presage the later cooperation between the Centaur Research Project, an informal committee of astrologers specializing in the Centaurs and other unusual small objects, and the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the scientific institution which is responsible for the cataloging and formal naming of new astronomical discoveries. Today, the Centaur Research Project, created by Robert von Heeren of Munich, provides the name suggestions for the new Centaurs, all of which have so far been accepted by the IAU (Nessus, Chariclo, Asbolus and Hylonome).

We live in an unprecedented era in which astrologers and astronomers are working together, and in which scientists are accepting the research findings of astrologers as intellectually valid. At the same time, a number of astrologers in the Centaur field are themselves accomplished astronomers, able to do the difficult mathematical calculations required to track the orbits of these planets. This is a long way from the unprovoked and intellectually bereft attack of the scientific community on astrologers in the late 1970s.

Back to the beginnings of our tale, Zane Stein wrote the first article about Chiron, published in the January 1981 edition of Dell Horoscope magazine. With the help of Neil F. Michelsen of Astro Computing Services (publishers of the American Ephemeris, currently the only major U.S. or British ephemeris to list Chiron's position), Zane published a Chiron aspectarian for the 20th century later that year, and had by 1983 published a pamphlet called "Interpreting Chiron." The same year, Erminie Lantero, Ph.D. published the first book, The Continuing Discovery of Chiron (Samuel Weiser, 1983).

In 1985, Zane's book Essence and Application: A View from Chiron was published by astrologer Al H. Morrison. This was followed up by what is probably the best-known work on the new planet, Chiron: Rainbow Bridge Between the Inner and Outer Planets by Barbara Hand Clow (Llewellyn, 1987). Barbara, for her part, relied heavily on the research of her predecessors, particularly Zane Stein, to create her popular and informative work. In 1994, Richard Noelle brought out a worthwhile short work called Chiron: The New Planet in Your Horoscope (American Federation of Astrologers).

To date, the most in-depth look at Chiron has been written by the London-based astrologer Melanie Reinhart, called Chiron and the Healing Journey (1989, Penguin/Arkana). Written during a deeply transformative moment in the author's own healing journey, Melanie's work brings to bear her training and experience as a Jungian depth psychologist, her compassion as a humanitarian,

and her considerable talent and breadth of mind as an astrologer. Melanie has followed up with a second book, To The Edge and Beyond (1996, Center for Psychological Astrology Press) which looks at Saturn, Chiron and the next two Centaurs, Pholus and Nessus.

While the vast majority of astrologers remain in ignorance or denial of Chiron today, the progress that has been made in creating a body of work around a new planet in just 23 years is astonishing. Consider that at the time of Chiron's discovery in 1977, just one obscure book had been written about Pluto, which had been discovered 47 years earlier (Fritz Brunhubner's book on Pluto was written in 1934, but went unpublished in English for 34 years).

Aleister Crowley was on the case, in his infamous, excellent *The Book of Thoth*, published in the 1940s. Isabel Hickey published her Pluto or Minerva pamphlet in the late 1970s, and she got it right. This is now included with *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*.

It was only in 1985 — 55 years after its discovery — that the first book on Pluto was published in English, Jeff Green's *Pluto: Evolutionary Journey of the Soul* (Llewellyn). Note that the first major work on Pluto entered consciousness just as the first books on Chiron were appearing. This suggests that the two energies work together, like a unified polarity. Green suggested that Pluto functions as a subconscious process (which is not always true). Chiron usually works in full awareness, it can be easily subjected to scientific and psychological scrutiny, and is not easily given to issues like denial or avoidance.

Chiron's Mythos: Maverick, Mentor, Healer

Most people who have heard of Chiron associate it with the words "wounded healer," but this would be like summing up the life of Albert Einstein as the "confused physicist." Chiron's first keyword, as described by its discoverer, was maverick. Chiron was different and stood out as a unique scientific discovery. Mythologically, this

holds true, yet Chiron was more aptly known for his role as mentor to the great heroes of the Hellenic world. Finally, we know that Chiron was a healer and teacher of healing. He reflects all of these qualities when working as an astrological force.

An immortal born to Kronos (Saturn) and Philyra, Chiron was the first of the Centaurs, creatures who were half-man, half-horse. This mix occurred because Kronos was fucking Philyra behind the back of his wife Rhea; when Rhea caught them, Kronos turned himself into a horse as a disguise. At that moment, Chiron was conceived. Philyra, later seeing her son after she gave birth, was so horrified that she turned herself into a tree. Chiron was raised by mentors and surrogate mothers.

Yet Philyra seems to have over-reacted, for Chiron was not the monstrosity she feared. Zimmerman's Dictionary of Classical Mythology (consistent with other sources) reports that Chiron was the one "gentle, learned and wise member of the Centaurs" (though the lesser-known Centaur Pholus surely fits this description as well) and says further that Chiron was "famous for his knowledge of medicine, music, [and] shooting; taught mankind the use of plants and medicinal herbs; instructed the greatest heroes of the age [including] Achilles, Aeneas, Asclepius, Heracles, Jason [and] Peleus."

Chiron taught not just herbalism, but medicine and surgery to Asclepius, the Greek god of these arts. His name remains in the language today in the art of "chiropractic," which is the adjustment of the bones of the neck and back as a means of healing a variety of ills. In one chiropractic textbook I was shown by a colleague, there is an old etching of "asclepian manipulation," an early word for the practice. Since Chiron was the teacher of Asclepius, this suggests he may have also taught him chiropractic as well.

It is noteworthy that Chiron's vastly significant place in mythology was left largely to obscurity till it was dug out and revived by astrologers seeking to understand the meaning of a

new planet. Perhaps Chiron was forgotten because he reveals that humanity is at least half animal in nature, and indeed, that half below the waist, where the human body meets the horse body of the Centaur.

Chiron, intelligent, compassionate, and loving the teaching and healing of others most of all, has four hoofs and a tail, a reminder to those who think we are all the wiser for walking upright on two feet, while killing our fellow men and women. Chiron was content to live and work in his cave, the Chironian, living in peace and married to the nymph Chariclo. He is one of the very few male figures in Greek mythology not defined by his infidelities, sexual conquests, military conquests, gross flaws or false pride. Indeed, perhaps these are expressions of the denial of one's animal nature rather than a connection to it.

Yet those of Chiron's tribe, the thousands of other Centaurs (most of whom were not his blood relations), were a rogue band of thugs, rapists and warmongers roaming the forests of Greece. David Arner, one of my astrology teachers, recently commented that the Centaurs are the Hell's Angels of Greek mythology: "If there had been motorcycles back then," he said, "they would have been half-motorcycle."

Later in life, during what seemed to have been an inevitable war between Heracles and the Centaurs, Chiron was accidentally shot by Heracles, and hit with an arrow poisoned by the blood of the many-headed monster, the Hydra, whom Heracles had killed on an earlier mission. Though immortal, Chiron was mortally wounded, thus doomed to suffer eternally. The wound was to his animal-half, representing the injured and frightened animal within us all. He created many healing remedies in an attempt to heal his injury, though unsuccessfully.

Finally, after long suffering, he proposed the following arrangement to Zeus: Chiron would be released from his pain and ascend to be the constellation Centaurus. In turn, Prometheus would be freed from the rock where he was chained, doomed to

suffer for eternity (with his liver being eaten each day, only to grow back each night) in punishment for stealing the "fire of the gods" and giving it to humankind. Thus, Chiron and Prometheus were freed from their unending struggles and began new lives.

From Mythos to Logos

Mythos, that is, the tales of a mythological figure, and the logos, how the planet named after that figure functions astrologically, work very differently. Mythos is to logos as the sapling is to the tree. Somewhere within the form of a tree is both the idea and the reality of the sapling it once was; but the years, the environment and destiny have created a very different being in the mature tree.

While there are similarities in theme and story-structure, the logos is often more complex and has surprising, subtle expressions that can redeem what is often a not-so-happy mythological tale. Further, in the case of a new planet, astrologers, who (like scientists) are never free from bias, are able to assign meanings, and make selective observations and intuitive associations between a planet and its expressions in life. The planet works differently for different people, and humans have the capacity to learn from one another.

Because Chiron was a newly discovered planet, astrologers went to work seeking expressions of its logos in their clients through what amounts to psychological research. They examined the natal placements of clients they knew well, checked events at times of significant transits and watched how Chiron worked in synastry, that is, when two charts are read in comparison to one another, such as with married couples, parents and children and friends.

Astrologers also examined the birth chart of the new planet, as well as astronomical information such as its orbit. They looked at its numerology, and at events in history when Chiron was in aspect to major planetary influences. Through this organic process of reason, exploration, investigation and intuition, a

functional meaning of Chiron emerged. Yet as Erminie Lantero suggests in the title of the first book about Chiron, this is indeed a continuing discovery, made all the more adventurous by the two-dozen new planets in Chiron's class which astrologers and astronomers are working to understand.

Most important, we have learned from the experiences of our own lives, and those of the people we call clients, with whom we travel along the road to awareness, wholeness, health and life.

Chiron's Logos: Healing, Awareness, Power Wounds and Transformation

Chiron has many expressions and it is impossible to summarize them in an article or even a book. But it's possible to skew the discussion in a productive direction. This would start with the idea that Chiron works as a bridge. It closes the space between phases of growth, layers of awareness, people, belief systems, countries and phases of history. It provides a link between the celestial and earthly orders of consciousness, to the extent that these seem to be separate realities from our viewpoint here. Thus, its function is as a healer, since healing is always about closing separation.

Another way to look at healing is as a process of becoming aware. We give special words to describe this awareness, such as "enlightenment," "mastery," "expertise," "spirituality," and so forth. But awareness is awareness. The choice to use it, I might add, is another story entirely. Where Chiron is present in the natal chart, and where Chiron is acting by transit (that is, where the current position of Chiron is acting upon the natal chart), we will feel some form of need, desire or compulsion to raise our awareness.

Chiron is associated with healing crises, that is, the conscious confrontation of that which makes us sick or holds us back, and inspires the ultimate use of such "negative" things as opportunities to grow and learn. In this way, pain and suffering

do not enter our lives to teach us a lesson, but rather, we learn how to learn lessons from that which would otherwise be pointless struggle.

In the current models of medicine and psychiatry, we view the patient as an entirely passive entity in the healing process. In holistic healing, astrology and many other more balanced models of growth and wellness, a person is far from passive but is rather the central figure in the healing journey, with a greater element of control over his or her destiny. In this way, the healing crisis is a call to growth, personal empowerment, and most of all, consciousness.

We learn to let go of what holds us back, recognize who we really are, and to use what we know. We learn to make choices. In these ways, what starts as sickness becomes not just health but also a means to arriving at a new place of strength, integrity and freedom. One person's healing crisis can provide important information for other people as they grow into their own wholeness.

Some of us are familiar with the idea of the shaman. The shaman in aboriginal cultures is the bridge between humanity and the outer forces, a concept very much akin to that of Chiron or a healer. People working in this modality typically will serve a community, or be in the service of the culture, functioning in service being one of the identifying marks of a person on a spiritual mission in life.

Without exception in the life of a shaman there is a wound inflicted, such as early disease, blindness, a near-death experience, a bout with insanity or some other experience that causes the shaman to gather their strength and power and thus become who they are. With Chiron we can see this process working, on some level, in all people. This wound may be the early loss of a parent, an injury, a disability, or even a talent that rendered a person different and forced them to confront a

particular aspect of reality early on, perhaps well ahead of their years.

Chiron functions as an integrating agent in the seemingly separate mind, body, emotions and spirit, and thus brings together the very different elements of consciousness that may exist within us. We are aware of these elements when, for example, we have insights during meditation, in rituals or on drugs that we find challenging to relate to our "normal life."

We might recognize something about a person, perhaps someone we're very close to, and not be able to embody that knowledge into our relationship with the person. Or we might encounter wise teachings of an experienced person, but claim that they are impossible to apply to life. The process of Chiron works to bridge these realities: energy into matter, the spiritual into the mundane, the cosmic into the ordinary.

Three Kinds of Planets

To relate this idea, it will help to use some astrological metaphors, so I hope you'll bear with a short astrology class. Astrologers generally speak of three kinds of planets: The personal planets, the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus and Mars; the transpersonal planets, Jupiter and Saturn; and the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Saturn.

We can all relate fairly well to the personal planets. On the most basic level, Venus and Mars like to fuck, eat good food and play out the polarity of maleness and femaleness (this is a somewhat superficial explanation, but not really). This is easy to grasp. Mercury is the process of communication, the inner light of the mind, and the self that is not bound by definitions but rather fleets from one idea about itself to another. The Sun represents who we feel we really are. The Moon represents our most basic needs and security issues, the place in consciousness where emotions are manifested, as well as the physical body. These are the personal or "inner" planets. Often these have been

personified in the form of gods, which are really archetypal expressions of inner human reality. In other words, when I become a warrior, I invoke Mars, but I am really using an energy within my own being, which I perhaps recognized in myself because I know something about the great archetypal warriors.

Next are the transpersonal planets, which were the two most distant planets of antiquity: Jupiter and Saturn. These represent forces that don't seem to be so internal, but rather function as part of society; though there are some people who embody them very effectively, for good or for ill.

Jupiter represents great fortune (as if from outside), the process of culture, the idea of justice, and the sphere of embodied wisdom (such as the knowledge contained in libraries, universities and religions). Internally, Jupiter can represent the aspects of a person that are magnanimous (generous and kind of judgment), spiritual (Jupiter relates to Pisces and Sagittarius) excessive (Jupiter is big), and full of hot air (Jupiter is not a solid planet). Metaphysically it represents the principle of expansion. Perhaps this is why (according to Forbes magazine) there are so many Pisces millionaires.

Saturn represents concrete structures, such as buildings, corporations, traditions, institutions (like the church itself rather than the teachings of the church). Internally, Saturn represents the boundaries and structures of mind, body and interaction with and within which we must live. For example, we need bones, and we tend to treat our mother like our mother and our father like our father. Metaphysically Saturn represents the principle of limitation and discipline. Saturn is the edge.

Beyond the edge, there is the vast chaotic cosmos, both internally (the subconscious realm, into which psychotics, artists and genius-types may dip regularly) and externally (speed limits and DUI laws that land us in court). Without Saturn functioning normally, which includes tending to our process of becoming mature and creating structures to live within, we have a very

hard time staying sane or stable. When we do not work with Saturn as an internal energy (discipline) it will invariably manifest as an external energy (disciplinarians).

Last are the outer planets, also called the "modern planets" because they are the products of the modern world and its technology, and also because they represent humanity's delves into the deep space of consciousness in the form of psychoanalysis, spirituality, invention, industry, and mysticism — not to mention mass insanity, holocausts, world wars and ecocide, that is, the poisoning of our earthly home and the mass poisoning of its living creatures.

The first of these planets, Uranus, discovered in 1781, is the first planet beyond the edge of Saturn. It is the planet of revolution, innovation, invention, and the divine electricity of the mind. Its processes can up-end or destroy the structures of Saturn, or with a light touch, those familiar with Uranian energy can modify, reinvent and adapt structure to meet current needs.

It tends to operate far outside the reach of most people, since very few of us here are inventors, most of us cling to structure, and hardly anyone welcomes change. When it's functioning well in a person's chart, it will lead them to seek freedom, to be different, to think outside of boxes and to aspire to greater ideas about life and their personal experience on the planet.

Neptune, discovered in 1846, is even more difficult to grasp. It represents the presence of the numinous — that is, the supernatural; the unspeakable, the invisible and the mysterious. In its less wholesome and most common manifestations, it shows up in lie as drugs, drink, delusion, deception and denial.

Unfortunately, the sprit we call alcohol substitutes for the spirit we call love or God, and the two have a very hard time co-existing. Usually one is a direct substitute for the other. Note that alcoholics have a strong tendency to deceive people, to be delusional and to be in denial. People who are on a conscious

spiritual path generally work to be aware of their addictions, work to live for truth and not be in denial of what simply is so. In general, people work one side of Neptune or the other, though in all respects Neptune is a difficult concept to grasp, largely because it works through invisible means.

Before moving onto Pluto, it is very, very well worth noting that on New Year's Day 1801, two hundred years ago, a new kind of planet was discovered. This was Ceres, the first asteroid. Ceres was the second planet ever named for a woman and the first new planet named for a woman; and of course, she was "not a planet." Planets were only the big things going deeper and deeper into space.

Ceres is the Roman name of the Greek goddess of agriculture, Demeter; she is about the Earth and its fruits, grains (hence "cereal") and the guardian of marriage. In discovering Ceres, not counting her for a planet (an issue for both astrologers and astronomers), and then abandoning her, we seemed to be reflecting a cultural process that would, in a very short time, foul the nest known as Earth and lead to many generations of failure to honor relationships, nutrition and nurturing one another.

Finally, in 1930, we have the outermost conventional planet, Pluto, discovered at the Lowell Observatory in the United States. My Zimmerman mythology dictionary tells me that Pluto is, "The Greek name for the king of hell, or for hell itself; his other names are Ades, Aides, Aidoneus, Hades and Pluton." It's clear that this was hardly an inviting or tempting energy for astrologers to want to dabble in casually. And, first came Pluto, then came Hitler, who came to power in February 1933 and started the Holocaust, or all-consuming fire (holo = whole, and caust = burn, like in caustic), a hellish enough image to make the point.

But Pluto, as he works astrologically, is not so simple. His primary function or effect is to drive evolution forward. Pluto, akin to Shiva the Destroyer of Hindu mythology, does indeed burn off old karma, remove old situations, and get to the heat of the matter.

People with strong Pluto placements are able to cut to the truth, and push others to do the same. But Pluto rarely manifests as an entirely welcome energy. He is difficult to take all by himself, far more difficult than the other outer planets, none of which are especially easy to accept, comprehend or work with alone.

They are all forces far beyond our control, greater than we are, affecting millions of people and compelling us to deal with the ultimate realities of life and death. Pluto takes what seem to be the most negative forces and possibilities and, with awareness, transforms them into constructive experiences and learning. But this is often extremely difficult because the further away planets are, the more difficult their energy is to grasp or comprehend.

Enter Chiron, and a New Kind of Planet

Astronomically, Chiron bears attributes of a comet (harbinger or messenger of change), an asteroid (a seemingly minor influence, though of great importance — yet often ignored), a planet (a recognizable element in the consciousness of many people). But Chiron functions as an inner planet, piercing through the realm of Saturn at its closest point to the Sun and an outer planet, going way beyond Saturn, almost out to Uranus. He is, in this way, a bridge between the outer planets and the transpersonal planets.

He is like a utility which allows us to a) deal with the limitations of Saturn, and make productive use of Saturn and b) work with the cosmic energies of the outer planets. Chiron allows us to ground the pure energy of Uranus into the form and structure of Saturn, and vice versa. It works as a collector of Neptunian energy, allowing us to cut through the delusion and denial that so often accompanies spirituality, and to apply spiritual lessons in practical ways; and to deal with Pluto by bringing the subconscious forces to full awareness, where we can address it in a sane context (healing, ritual, committed relationship and so on).

Chiron typically works through experiences, talents and relationships, often in some combination. We know Chiron is active in our charts when we strive to make difficulty meaningful, when we seek healing rather than escape, and when we strive for awareness when in the past we desired to go to sleep.

The discovery of Chiron indeed proceeds, and now, there are nearly two-dozen planets identified as belonging to the Centaur class. The second was Pholus, discovered in 1992. The third was Nessus, discovered in 1993. With these discoveries, the Centaur class was designated, the properties of which include small objects in elongated orbits, usually crossing the orbits of larger planets. Most of these have no names.

Pholus, to my knowledge, is mentioned in book format English only in *To The Edge in Beyond*, though I have a couple of articles about it which you may [request](#), and I will be posting more here this year. One excellent book is available in [German](#). To cast the Centaurs into your natal chart, you may use the free online ephemeris at the [Centaur Research Project](#) homepage. Printed ephemerides may be obtained from Robert in Europe and from [Phillip Sedgwick](#) in the United States.

If you want information about how to get a copy of *To The Edge and Beyond*, which I consider to be an excellent starting astrology book, please [drop me a note](#). I also do Chiron [astrological readings](#), and teach other astrologers the techniques I have developed. Some of these will be explored in a later article.

Astrology as Homeopathy: The Holistic Art of People and the Planets

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He is a serious and unassuming young man with dark, watery eyes, and he's come in for an astrology reading. The astrologer can't help but notice that he looks just like an essential Pisces, mussed hair and all, with a sweet, dreamy face. It's his first reading, and he has no knowledge of astrology, just some mystical leanings and a hunch that maybe there's some useful information available.

The astrologer is not the predictive-type, more the psychological/spiritual-type, and she begins by saying to her young client, "Well, it would surely seem that work is a very important part of your life, and that you really need to do work that's meaningful to you, work that has a spiritual vision associated with it. And helping others is a big part of your happiness."

(The astrologer was speaking about the client's Moon in Sagittarius in the sixth house, with strong emphasis and confirmation provided by Vesta, the asteroid of selfless service, rising in the Cancer ascendant — but does not explain this because the client is unfamiliar with astrological terminology.)

The client nods. In fact he's a very hard worker, most of it mental, but he's a dreamer, too, and he has dreams that take him way beyond his boring work. And other people: they are indeed very important. People surely need help.

"My, my, you have a lot of original ideas," says the astrologer (noticing Uranus in Virgo in the third house, where we do a whole bunch of thinking and reasoning, which Uranus would fuel with enormous freshness and intensity).

"You have a truly beautiful gift for taking very difficult-to-grasp notions and bringing them into a clear form that other people can not just understand, but put to good use as well. And [unconsciously slipping in a prediction because it's so obvious] I imagine you'll have many interesting opportunities to do this." (Here, the astrologer noticed that Uranus in the third is trine to a conjunction of Chiron and Neptune in the 11th house, where we get to bring our creative gifts into the culture.)

"And even if people don't understand you, you'll be able to hold your own, because you're a very strong person, you have a great sense of who you are. And destiny is calling you. Listen to it." (This, her interpretation of Saturn, Venus and Mercury, Pallas Athene and the Part of Fortune in Aries in the 10th house).

The client leaves feeling good about himself, in a sense, healed of his doubts. Yes, he says to himself as he ambles down the block dreamily, my work *is* important and my ideas *do* feel worthwhile, if difficult to for others understand. Yes, there is a sense of destiny calling. True, people don't always understand me, but I'll keep my chin up. I know I need to carry on with all of this."

What just happened?

The chart was that of Albert Einstein, and in this hypothetical reading, the astrologer resonated with the planets and aspects in the chart, and provided the client with a sufficient dose of who he is to remind him that it's okay to be that person with a clear conscience. The world, after all, is tough on individuality. Astrologers, on the other hand, are experts at it. There is a gift in our profession for recognizing who people are, and reminding them that's the only person they can really be. (It helps that astrologers are themselves categorically a bit weird, proving at least that weird can be functional.)

Time and time again, if it's done with love and care, we see this process of telling people about themselves as empowering to our clients; it sets them free from the expectations and rules of others, or unlocks the cage on jobs they hate and relationships that don't work for them. Astrology provides a glimpse beyond the values of a society that pushes our clients to stay trapped.

And all we did (in a basic natal reading) was look at the chart, which we consider an energetic image of the client, and describe to the client a little about who they are — just a little, enough to remind them that if somebody else knows that much from looking at a sheet of paper, then it must be true. A great motto for the astrological profession could be, "It's okay to be you."

Medicine for the Soul

There is a branch of holistic healing called homeopathy. The basic idea behind homeopathy is treating "like with like." A homeopath would treat a condition with a remedy that caused a similar condition in a healthy person; say, for example, a particular remedy caused stomach cramps that are worse when the person stands up. Another person reporting that combination of problems would be treated with a dose of a remedy which caused just this when tested. Allopathic (traditional) medicine tries to antidote a problem. When we have a bee sting, they give us an antihistamine. A homeopath would give a tiny dose of *apis*, which is made from bee venom.

Homeopathy works on another level as well, which is far more valuable. Many people suffer from chronic illness which has caused them to adapt to life in a way resulting in constant struggle. Or, a life of struggle has caused chronic illness, such as not having much money, thus sleeping in a drafty room, associated with ear infections, which leads to a greater sense of struggle. There is an imbalance mentally, and sickness physically. A homeopath would work with the client to ascertain what the underlying issue is, and prescribe a "constitutional remedy" that resonates with many of the mental and physical symptoms the client reports.

Let's say a woman comes into the homeopath's office suffering from mild depression, exhaustion and menstrual difficulties. She is a mother, she works hard to support her children and take care of the household. She feels like her husband does not recognize her plight, and is not in emotional contact with her. As a result, she withdraws into herself and hides in a brown fog of depression. Her difficult menstrual periods give her a chance to withdraw, however, a chance to hide away from the world for a little while. This has been going on for years. Doctors cannot help; they say she is "fine." Finally she seeks out a homeopath, who looks at the whole situation.

A homeopath would very likely prescribe a single dose of the remedy *sepia*. *Sepia* is made from cuttlefish ink; the cuttlefish hides herself in a cloud. When this substance has been potentized (diluted extremely, perhaps a thousand or ten thousand times, and made into a homeopathic remedy) and tested on healthy patients, it has caused similar feelings and symptoms. This remedy has helped many women come out of their depressed fog, and it is not toxic.

The homeopath has treated "like with like." Classical homeopaths, as they are known, are less inclined to treat specific symptoms and more inclined to treat a whole person. They listen to the patient (unlike most doctors), they ask insightful questions, and take into account every factor, from how a patient sleeps to whether she has time to brush her teeth; what dreams they report and where and when their body hurts.

We could say that homeopathy, which originated in Germany in the 18th century, is the original holistic healing modality of the modern world, the first branch of Western medicine to fully integrate the mental, spiritual and physical aspects of being. Though we now know of a wide variety of mind-body-spirit therapies today, homeopathy was the first to stand on the table of a medical school and vehemently insist that we treat people as whole critters and not as slices of their tissue or psychological complexes. It is medicine with an underlying philosophy.

Homeopathy teaches that there is a vital force powering the human existence. When this vital force is compromised, disturbed, weakened or damaged, sickness results. "Disease is not an affection of the organs, but a disturbance of the vital force," writes Dr. Rajan Sankaran, one of the leading classical homeopaths today. "As long as the vital force is in control, no part of the body can be affected."

The goal of homeopathy, just as in astrology, is to restore health to the vital force. When the vital force is healed, then physical health follows. This is medicine, but medicine for the soul.

The Original Original Holistic Art

Yet astrology came thousands of years before homeopathy, and it takes much the same view. If we look objectively at what we do, we will see that in reading astrology, we attempt to perceive reality in a holistic way. Astrology views a person as a complete process; our 12 houses, 12 signs, many aspects and numerous planets, asteroids, centaurs and Arabic parts, in countless combinations, give a very complete — and unique — picture of the client.

Astrology is, by its nature, holistic because it considers the whole person. We look at mental properties in the air signs, for example, and emotional properties in the water signs and consider the material qualities of a person in the earth signs. We are trained to do this from the beginning. We also look at how the client moves through time (in the form of transits and progressions), and we work with their potentials as we look for hidden gifts, and acknowledge their existence in the client's life.

In working with a client's chart, we are not doing anything material, like Rolfing or medicating them with antidepressants; we are working with a picture of their energy. The chart, if it's anything at all, is an image of the vital force, how it is distributed, colored, shaped and flowing or not flowing. Some astrologers feel the chart is an image of the soul, others that it is a representation of a person's potential. The underlying connection is energy.

In astrology, the references and metaphors are celestial and elemental; in homeopathy, the references are physical, in the form of natural substances that have different properties. But they say the same thing. The homeopath does not use a chart to determine the nature of the client's condition, but rather the careful reporting and analysis of symptoms on all levels of the client's being. Dreams of being chased, no appetite for lunch, headaches on Saturdays, tingling sensation in the feet after drinking tea — these are the homeopath's planets, signs, houses and aspects.

Homeopaths, like astrologers, have for centuries attempted to gain an understanding of the complex nuances of human nature. Members of both professions are driven by an insatiable curiosity coupled with a desire to help people stop suffering. The literature of both professions suggests that neither is afraid of experimentation, though homeopaths are especially bold about it. While most astrologers are reluctant to try new planets, homeopathy is often ready to try a new remedy, whether it's Coca-Cola or the condensed rays of a television set.

Homeopaths, who practice a healing art, have always known they were healers or healers-in-training. Astrologers, with the advent of the holistic movement, have begun to consciously aspire to viewing their profession as a healing art, though we could learn a lot from homeopathy in this respect as well. For one thing, homeopaths are very careful when they take a case. Statements are not made to the patient, nor a remedy prescribed, until there has been a careful reporting and analysis of the symptoms. The homeopath is trying to find out what is really going on in the patient's life, and this takes time.

Checking Past Transits

In a similar way, I suggest that astrologers, when working with a person confronting difficult situations, check the client's life carefully against past transits to see what happened when actual events are played out during those planetary events. This tells you how the chart works in "real life." I have found that Chiron

works exceptionally well in this regard, and that a careful check of Chiron's transits against natal placements, including its aspects to Chiron's own natal position, the angles, the lunar nodes and planets, will give astrologers a deeper view on what has led a client to be in a particular condition. Perhaps the person is getting divorced, and you see certain transits associated with this. How does the history of relationships shape up against previous transits? The only way we can know is to ask.

Why Chiron? Chiron is the only archetype we use in astrology that refers directly and specifically to healing. Many astrologers have noted this phenomenon and put it to excellent use. Chiron is recorded in the myths a surgeon and healer and was the teacher of Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine. His process gives meaning to the struggles we face and to the wounds we suffer, and provides an understanding of how we can use these struggles to grow and become stronger people.

However, transits of Saturn (the return and squares, for example), Pluto and Uranus can also be very revealing about how a client processes their experiences, and are equally important. What is most important is that we pay attention to the details of what a client reports, remain flexible, and note the connections to the chart consciously.

I say this recognizing that astrologers do not generally do a thorough intake with new clients. Yet our clients often come to us with very difficult situations, not just for natal readings. If we really want to help our clients — and they come to us specifically for help — the better we understand their condition the more we can assist. That takes time and effort, but it is worth both.

I had personally floundered in my early sessions with clients until I was treated by a homeopath. I was impressed by her thorough interview methods, her impartiality, and her ability to both notice and put together details, and then began to adopt this method of working with people. Perhaps the greatest gift of this method is that astrologers will be able to use the chart to propose a single remedy to a client.

They may be seeking a new job, a new relationship and want a child. After carefully taking the case and checking the aspects, they may discover that they need to track down their long-lost father and see whether he is alive, because the question may be tormenting them.

Most homeopaths are extremely judicious prescribers. They are seeking the single remedy that addresses a given set of conditions. Usually there is one, and it's worth taking the time to find. It may not work exactly this way in astrology in every case, but it is usually a good idea for an astrologer, in listening to the client, to be mindful of the factors that all their complaints, situations and objectives in life have in common. They are likely to tell one story because it's one person telling the story.

Remedies and Aspects

Sometimes it is difficult to conceptualize how a combination of placements or aspects manifest in a client's life. Our books will tell us about Mercury in Sagittarius, but not about Mercury in Sagittarius in the 12th house conjunct Vesta. Studying homeopathy, I have been able to gain a more clear understanding of how aspects manifest in the actual lives of the people with whom I work.

Let's use the example above. This individual came to me recently in a rather shaky position. She reported being involved in psychic activities, working with a mentor who was doing work to free souls trapped on the astral plane after they had died. Whether I "believed" this is not important, and it's important for astrologers to keep an open mind when told such accounts. What's important is that this is what the client was reporting. I understood from training and experience that there are certain risks associated with this activity, particularly when conducted in a weakened state.

The person felt lonely, isolated and depressed. Checking the chart, I discovered Mercury in Sagittarius just inside the 12th house cusp. This will naturally be given to experiment with

psychic matters and have a hard time staying mentally or physically grounded. The conjunction to Vesta adds the theme of selfless service; of giving oneself away, and in the 12th house, to her discarnate clients on the astral plane.

As we were speaking, Chiron was exactly conjunct her natal Mercury-Vesta, and Mars was fast approaching. With Chiron, I saw the desire to do healing work on the astral plane; I saw the presence of a mentor; and I saw the potential for her to get injured in the process, particularly with Mars on its way. I asked two questions: one, are you smoking marijuana, and two, are you being treated by a homeopath and do you mind telling me what your remedy is?

The answer to the first question was yes. I calmly but effectively warned her that psychic work and smoking pot are not a good mix because marijuana wears down the membranes which both protect us and which allow us to hold our individual identity on those levels.

The answer to the second question was also yes. She was being treated by with *anaholinum*, a remedy made from peyoti cactus. It is mescaline, turned into a homeopathic remedy. All of the drug remedies have elements of isolation and this was no exception. Checking a modern *materia medica* called *The Soul of Remedies* by Dr. Rajan Sankaran, I learned about his take on the spiritual condition associated with *anaholinum*: "The experience of mescaline is often one of merging with one's surroundings or the feeling of being one with the whole of existence, seeing oneself without any boundaries.

This is close to the highest spiritual experience as described in Hindu or Buddhist philosophy." This is an uncanny description of 12th house Mercury in Sagittarius.

"The need for such an experience arises from the feeling of having no roots, of having no identity, of feeling totally isolated and separated from other human beings, so that one sees one's ego as being separate and totally mortal. This can create

immense fear of losing one's very existence which is much more than the fear of death." This condition, the author says, is one of the mental states associated with developing cancer.

With this on the table, we were able to have a much more informed discussion about her astral-plane work, as well as her marijuana use, which had likely antidoted the *anhalonium* remedy, which was intended by her homeopath to address her feeling of rootless isolation and fear of death. I suggested that she inquire whether *cannabis indica* might be a more appropriate remedy to assist her in helping stop smoking marijuana, which was clearly adding to her problems and putting her in peril when doing her astral work.

Chiron, Saturn and Dog's Milk

Earlier in my work, I saw a chart where the native had a Saturn-Juno conjunction in Taurus exactly on the 7th house cusp. This alignment of Saturn with Juno, a powerful asteroid representing marriage and legal partnership, is associated with a strong feeling of loyalty and possessiveness in relationships — but often a feeling of being stuck there. The energy of both Saturn and Juno is solidified by Taurus. The feeling of this aspect is very limiting, like the indoctrinated values system cannot catch up with who the person might otherwise be.

In her fifth house was Chiron in Aries, a house where we live as children all the time. This is high-powered creative energy, craving identity, wanting experience, needing freedom, yearning for sexual gratification. This person, the chart strongly suggests, needed to have a life that is — at least for a while — a total experiment in existence. But Saturn does not want to allow this. These two forces, or systems of values, were strongly at odds, creating a sense of chaos and disharmony. With Saturn and Juno in Taurus, we have a representation of *someone else's* values, traditional ones from the past, and those imposed by the partner as well (7th house theme). Chiron in Aries is an original; but the originality is contained within an imposed system of customs.

Reading the homeopathic literature some time later, I came across the remedy *lac caninum*, made from the milk of a dog, a remedy which reflects this underlying tension. Sanakran writes of this remedy, "What differentiates the dog from all other animals? It is an animal which is totally controlled, totally civilized. It has to suppress its basic animal nature and only express the controlled domestic side.

You cannot make a cat perform tricks. A cat has its own individuality." A dog, he says, works to impress everyone else with how civilized it is, and if these characteristics are seen in a person, the result can be great pain and rage. People are not dogs, but often have to act like them.

A homeopath, coming across this conflict between the person forced to be civilized in a specific pattern of conduct, and the raging inner child who was never allowed to be a child, might prescribe *lac caninum*. It has been used with great success in such situations.

As astrologers, we could work to see what injuries in the distant past might have led to this situation, and give the client a fair hearing (which they may have never had), recognize and empathize with their pain, and help them get a sense that they are not responsible for what was done to them as a child, particularly if it involved incest. Incest is a possibility because 5th house Chiron can represent a childhood sexual wound. We can remind them that they have the option to seek healing today. We can remind them that this wound, if it exists, can be a source of great power in their healing process and their contribution to the world.

It is worth mentioning the obvious way in which the issues of *lac caninum* — and indeed of many remedies — are universal in nature. All people must live and behave ourselves within civilization with the urges and instincts of the animals who we are inside. We will see many manifestations of this: married clients having "affairs" behind the backs of their partners; a priest who gets drunk and raises hell at parties, only to preach a tempered

and moralistic sermon the next morning; and various other assortments of double lives. Yet there are times when the specific question or problem the remedy addresses is especially pronounced.

Though we cannot use the remedies until we are either certified homeopaths or at least have a strong sense of what we are doing, the language of homeopathy is a great help in conceptualizing an issue that a client is facing, giving it an image that makes it tangible. The method of homeopathy, with its detailed questioning, can help us get to the root of the situation, where real help is possible. Keeping a few good homeopathic books around your office, you will be able to learn a lot when a client tells you their constitutional remedy; it may, in a word or two, bring the whole chart into focus in a surprising way.

The Other Astrology

Studying the homeopathic literature, astrologers will discover a beautiful reflection of our own art, but cast in the garb of mundane substances, mental states and physical symptoms. We will find the example of a profession that is not afraid to ask questions, to explore unlikely possibilities and propose innovative solutions.

We will have the example of a class of practitioners who live on the outside of the mainstream of modern science, but who rely heavily on science and who get results. In similar ways both homeopathy and astrology have attributes of being rooted in deep tradition but at the same time being far ahead of their times.

Both astrology and homeopathy have in common the experience of pushing the known limits of reality. Homeopathy uses medicinal substances that work with no material cause; potentized homeopathic remedies are diluted far beyond the possibility that even a single molecule of the substance made it into the final medicine. Their effect is "non-material." Astrology explores influences of celestial bodies so small, so far away or

calculated mathematically that there is "no way they could possibly have an effect." And for these facts, both astrology and homeopathy have earned the derision of formal scientists throughout their respective histories. Yet both persevere as effective healing modalities.

But moreover, astrologers who investigate homeopathy will discover we are not alone in the cosmos among practitioners who are using subtle energy, seemingly abstract concepts and a holistic model of reality when working with someone we recognize as a whole person.

Chiron: A Myth for Our Times

Planet Waves

November 2001

[Link to original](#)

In some representations of Sagittarius, the archer of this sign is supposed to be a centaur, a half-man, half-horse.

Who is this being? There is one centaur who stands out from the lot: Chiron, a demigod born of Kronos (also called Saturn) and Philyra, a nymph he was fucking one day. Just as his wife caught him in the act, Kronos turned himself into a horse, and as a result Chiron was born with an equestrian lower half.

But far from being a monster, Chiron was a kind, compassionate soul, devoted to teaching and to study of a wide variety of subjects: archery, warfare, music, poetry, ethics and medicine. Alone among the gods of the Greek myths, he is portrayed as being without some kind of tragic character flaw, such as being unfaithful, deceptive, vain or vengeful, all common properties of Greek deities. His flaw was how he was born, which we can surmise taught him compassion, and created the alienation which allowed him to study and teach as he did.

This myth of Chiron was almost forgotten until a tiny planet was discovered in 1977 and named for him, and astrologers, taking notice, began to explore the story and its implications for modern times.

In the Chiron myth, for example, we have the issue of whether humanity is an animal, and whether the animal impulse rules. We have the whole meaning of what it means that we are indeed half-animal and half-human.

Since then, there has been much discussion in the astrological community as to whether the first centaur planet should be considered a ruler of Virgo, or of Sagittarius. (Some astrologers have even suggested Libra.) Note that each of these signs already has a ruler (the astrological term for planet most closely related to a sign, which assigns it certain privileges in the game of astrology).

Whatever our opinions on this matter may be, it remains obvious that the centaur planet has some intuitive association with the sign of the centaur. And it turns out that Sagittarius has a lot in common with the questing spirit of Chiron, with his love for knowledge and teaching, and with his association with very specific issues in a person's life — less like the more generalized expansive quality of Jupiter (Sagittarius's traditional ruler) and more like the arrow of Chiron.

The discovery of this small planet has led to a great deal of information being unearthed about Chiron, and other centaurs which followed, including Pholus (1992) and Nessus (1993). Dieter Koch, the Swiss astrologer, has personally translated the centaur myths from ancient Greek, correcting many of the assumptions of both academic mythology and astrology.

Other devoted astrologers, particularly depth psychologist Melanie Reinhart, have given much of their lives to exploring the implications of the Chiron myth in modern times, and working with people on these themes. This is consistent with the Chiron theme of mentorship.

Chiron was mentor to a generation of Greek heroes of the Hellenic era, including [Jason](#), [Heracles](#), and Achilles. Jason and Heracles were men who endured enormous peril in the service of their

cultures, and whose lives tell the story of what you might call ego development within the Western psyche. Like Achilles, one of the great heroes of the Trojan War, Jason and Heracles had their weaknesses and vulnerabilities (Jason being unfaithful to the woman who assisted his quest, and Heracles being something of a mass-murderer who tried to redeem himself), but their activities represent a huge portion of the history of ancient Greece as told in myths. And the myths, of course, are our own stories. How it happened that Chiron, their mentor, the one who prepared them for their challenges and their perils, became at best a minor background figure in these tales remains a mystery, though a fertile one.

Chiron was also the teacher to [Asklepius](#), the ancient god of healing and medicine, one of the most important of the non-Olympian gods. In my *Dictionary of Classical Mythology* he is not even credited with this role.

In our culture, we have indeed largely forgotten the role of mentorship. We often forget our teachers and those who generously shared their knowledge with us — early bosses, coaches and older friends who guided us, or taught us judgment. While there are many people who tear us down, there are many who give us only reason to believe in ourselves, who confront us with the truth, and whose feelings about us do not change with public opinion. They choose not to be threatened by us (such as parents often are). These are mentors. We are often presumed to be "self-made" people when we rise to power and wealth. Yet we never really are — or if so, then we run the risk of being cut off from tradition and history, and from our community, and in truth, from ourselves.

The Centaur Meets the Sea Goat

Planet Waves

Early 2002

[Link to original](#)

I was not exactly stunned to learn that the last time Chiron was in Capricorn, Sen. [Joseph McCarthy](#) [click for multimedia files, also pictured below] had dragged our nation into the throes of the paranoid, frantic and hateful religion that bears his name, forcing people to testify against their friends, colleagues and neighbors. We were after Communists, then, and nobody was immune from investigation. Half of Hollywood was blacklisted.

An equally rancid man named J. Edgar Hoover was at the head of the FBI, fanning the flames of McCarthy's fervor, and, moreover, facilitating his escapades with federal agents and money. Just about everybody went along for the ride, unless you were one of the accused. We were, collectively and individually, a nation with our rational minds paralyzed by the idea of Communists and the commie threat around the world, scorning the Russians, looking under our beds for suspects, ducking and covering, trembling at the thought of kidnappers, and terrified, literally of our own shadows.

Lest I sound a bit negative (scanning my tirade below, one could get that impression) I'll add this up front. Chiron rewards awareness and detests ignorance, especially the kind that knows, or knows better. Chiron has the power to shine light into the musty, dark halls of power, where the name of the game is

control. We know history. If we pay attention, maybe we won't have to repeat it.

So, let's review. Looking back one revolution of Chiron, the [nuclear bomb](#) was in high production and being tested without limit and above the ground in the southwestern United States, a tragedy which is the subject of the [book](#) *American Ground Zero*. While we were (in the news) racing the Russians for world domination through what would become the Doomsday Machine, there would be 140 blasts of the A-bomb in the open air of Nevada, with our own troops taking the dust (in the name of science), with the fallout drifting first to every corner of our continent, then around the globe.

Schools in Nevada would hurry children indoors as fallout drifted their way. Many of those tests occurred in the early 1950s. Las Vegas vacationers would watch explosions from hotel rooftops, nonchalant, fascinated, wearing goggles, or not. The Modern World.

We smoked a lot in those years, no small wonder: circa 1954, 45% of Americans sucked down at least a pack a day. Cigarette companies were facing their first accusations that smoking caused cancer. Kids called cigs coffin nails. Manufacturers of tobacco responded in a 1954 ad appearing in hundreds of newspapers around the country, titled "A Frank Statement to Cigarette Smokers," [text below] in which we learn: "Recent reports on experiments with mice have given wide publicity to a theory that cigarette smoking is in some way linked with lung cancer in human beings.

Although conducted by doctors of professional standing, these experiments are not regarded as conclusive in the field of cancer research. However, we do not believe results are inconclusive, should be disregarded, or lightly dismissed. At the same time, we feel it is in the public interest to call attention to the fact that eminent doctors and research scientists have publicly questioned the claimed significance of these experiments."

Along similar lines of gross fraudulent obfuscation, [Monsanto Co.](#), founded at the previous Chiron in Capricorn visit as a manufacturer of saccharine, and which by 1951 had recently discovered dioxin, was busy testing what turned out to be the world's most toxic chemical agent on human "volunteers," its own clueless employees in Nitro, WV. These tests, performed by the company doctor, would form the basis for a series of phony cancer studies released decades later, used to prove to the world that Agent Orange was safe, and that Love Canal was a joke. Some people still believe it.

Father Knew Best, but we didn't know what he did at work all day.

What saved this from being one of the darkest eras in human history? If you ask me, *I Love Lucy*, which broadcast its first show in 1951, the year Chiron's most recent journey across Capricorn began. This program, while teaching us much about how to cook rice, work in a chocolate factory and explode pressure cookers, also inadvertently documented the end of the extended family and the beginning of the nuclear family.

The nuclear family, born during the nuclear arms race, would become the myth of all that ever was, at least on TV and in *Life* magazine. It would not be long before white middle-class America would grow to shun the kind of relationship that the Riccardos shared with the Mertzs, two couples whose doors were open to one another, reminiscent of urban life in the first half of the century, when people were too poor to go it alone, but had each other.

Chiron's approximate stay in the sign Capricorn is 4 years plus four months out of every 51 years. Chiron will enter Capricorn in mid-December, and will take until the end of 2005 to move into Aquarius. The last time Chiron was in Capricorn was November 1951 through February 1955. (Because Chiron's orbit is a big

oval, it stays in some signs as little as 18-24 months, and others up to nine years.)

Le Freak

Our current days bear a conspicuous, chilling relationship to those years that makes me want to take some *Nux Vomica*.

Communism has been replaced by terrorism; the enemy is everywhere; they are trying to poison us; one can wear anything, but if not wrapped in the flag, is subject to arrest. If we associate with a terrorist, we are one, even if we don't know we're doing it. Wire tapping is a brilliant idea — it will protect our civil liberties. War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength, in the words of George Orwell, whose warning knell, *1984*, was rung a few years before.

The Korean War ended in 1953, and in 1955, America gets itself involved in Vietnam, a suicidal, murderous, highly profitable (for banks, arms manufacturers and the government) taxpayer-supported fiasco of pain and poison which would persist for the next two decades. We bought the Domino Theory (that one country after the next would fall to Socialism or Communism or whatever it was, and finally America would go down as the workers rose up in the streets of Cincinnati) and paid royalties on it till the day before the USSR collapsed in a heap of its own impossibility. The biggest lie of all was that the South Vietnamese, the good gooks, wanted us there at all. Everybody got sprayed with a lot of Agent Orange.

At the end of this transit, there was a ray of hope, foreshadowing the Sixties. The modern notion of civil rights was born on May 17, 1954, when the Supreme Court [ruled](#) in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional, declaring unanimously that the "separate but equal" clause in the segregation laws was unconstitutional because it violated the children's 14th Amendment rights by separating them solely on the classification of the color of their skin.

For those of you not up on this tidbit of history, it was law that black students and white students went to different schools, until this time. There were also separate bathrooms in restaurants and theaters, marked "Colored Men" and "White Men," for example. Those finally went out of vogue in the early Sixties. We can safely pee in the same room, and not fear arrest.

In the *Brown* ruling, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote that "segregated schools are not equal and cannot be made equal, and hence they are deprived of the equal protection of the laws." It would be more than a decade before the same court ruled that blacks and whites could legally marry — but *Brown* sowed the seeds of civil rights and civil unrest in the two decades that followed.

Along a similar line, the first major strides were taken toward the creation of the birth control pill, when in 1953 Katharine Dexter McCormick, an heir to the McCormick reaper fortune, donated a lot of money to Planned Parenthood for this purpose. The pill, as it became known, would catalyze the sexual revolution of a dozen years later. Sex would become available because pregnancy was easily preventable by women.

Wheeling Back One Turn

The prior time Chiron was in Capricorn was in October 1901 through January of 1905. In these years, Monsanto Co. is born, on Nov. 29, 1901. In 1929 Monsanto purchased Swann Chemical, including its recipe for polychlorinated biphenyls, which they maintain are [perfectly safe](#).

President [William McKinley](#) was assassinated, and Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

Einstein's special theory of [relativity](#) was published, in 1905, turning on its head our conception of nature, physics, space and time. Nobody understands it a century later. Okay, almost

nobody. Space and time are one thing; squish one and the other bulges. This has a lot to do with [astrology](#).

How About November 1852 through February of 1856?

Uncle Tom's Cabin. [MultiEd.com](#) writes, "In 1852, the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published. It is most likely the novel that had the greatest historic impact on American society. The novel depicted the plight of a slave family. It was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, who was a mother of six. In the first year, hundreds of thousands of copies were printed and ultimately millions of copies were sold. The helped solidify the opposition to slavery in the North. Its success in France and England served as a break in the inclination of the aristocracy in those countries to support the South during the war."

More on slavery in this era: there is a civil war in [Kansas](#) over whether it will become a free state or a slave state. In 1956 there was the Massacre of Potawatomie Creek, Kansas, in which slavers were murdered by free-staters.

Then There Was 1803-1807...

"It's just a lot of fighting," says your researcher, Angela with a sigh, as she looks at the *Timetables of History*.

Well, okay, in 1803, Christian Johann Doppler predicted what is now known as the Doppler effect, which is how speed trap radar works, and hey, Doppler weather. Woo hoo!

In 1804, Thomas Jefferson, an astrologer, begins second term as President of U.S.

In 1805 we see the official end of Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Empire? In 1805? Did I sleep through that class in high school?

What [Astrologers](#) Have Written of Chiron in Capricorn Nately

(People born between Nov. 1951 and Feb. 1955). You are all having your Chiron returns some time between the ages of 50 and 51. This is a big moment. Check Planet Waves for more details.)

Zane Stein writes, "These people need to create some type of order or structure what will not fall apart when other things do, and which, it is hoped, will function after they are gone. They need to feel that they are on THE right path for them, and they deeply believe there is one specific path they must find for themselves. They also believe this is true for others — that each person has a correct path for himself. The more evolved types believe that each person's path is totally his own; the lesser types believe, once they find a path, that it is for everyone to follow. They hate anything that can sway them from their course, and feel the same is true for others. They have a strong need to succeed at their unique path, and can't stand failure."

Richard Nolle writes, "This Chiron position signifies a survivor, one whose aim is to prevail (and if possible, prosper) despite any adversity. Power and status are important to these people, who measure their own self esteem through the eyes of others. If they seem traditional or conservative in any way it is because of their desire to conquer time, to preserve some element of their lives despite the transience of the human condition. If they seem radically revolutionary, it is because they fear losing their own identity in the morass of the status quo. If they seem ruthless or desperate, it is because they know full well how brutal and tragic life can be."

Melanie Reinhart writes, "With Chiron in Capricorn or the 10th house we often experience difficulty in setting and achieving goals, and finding our place in society. We may have to be patient in our longing for a vocation through which to contribute to the world, as it may only come later in life, preceded by many

false starts. On the other hand, we perhaps find it difficult to enjoy the prestige which others perceive us as having, and are plagued with feelings of failure no matter how successful we appear. It is usually helpful to examine some of the deeper reasons behind this: we may be setting ourselves impossible standards, or hoping that each new mountain we climb will be the last."

Barbara Hand Clow writes, "When Chiron is in Capricorn, there is a karmic crisis about succeeding in one's quest and balance in life between success and nurturance. This is a complex position because the natives are personally invested in their own success while they are still relatively unevolved. They have great difficulty being open to any path outside of their own. This path is understood to be a path of the higher self as well as the normal desire for success and power; thus the individual invests this quest with spiritual significance. The result is a great difficulty hearing or seeing the way of other people, resulting in the loss of the mirror or sight offered by feedback from others. This position is the essence of the Capricorn goat on the top of the mountain."

Chiron in Your Child's Birth Chart

Planet Waves Parenting

February 20, 2005

[Link to original](#)

In this article, I'd like to cover some basics about using Chiron in your child's birth chart. It might be more useful to start with an article about what to do with your kid's birth chart at all, but I think some of that will come through, and besides my head is all mixed into Chiron with the sign change to Aquarius.

When approaching the chart of a young person, I recommend that extreme care be taken. I suggest that the chart be used for the limited purpose of identifying the child's special needs. By special needs, I would include health needs, or emotional, or nutritional; space needs; and potential relationship needs. Needs might also include identifying a potential talent or two and giving him or her a chance to explore it. However I would stay away from any form of prediction, any ideas about destiny, or making up any complicated stories about who this person is. You're not going to like everything you see. Some things, you're going to like a lot. Some things, you're going to start taking personal responsibility for.

Try to keep your perspective, and an arm's length distance as far as judging the chart is concerned. Remember that looking at the chart is a way of inviting increased awareness so that you can bring love and care where it's needed. And it can prepare you somewhat for how a child will respond to certain situations, as

well as show that certain traits are merely their particular style and not some kind of personal affront. Some people are dramatic. If someone has seven Aries planets, count on it. Some people are dark and brooding. A lot of Earth, and an earthy Moon, would key you in to that being within range of healthy.

Looking at a chart is a way of empathizing with a person. It's fair, I think, to look at the chart and say, "If I had a Pisces Moon squared by Pluto, what would I need? How would I feel?" And then see what comes up. It's probably best to avoid astrology cookbooks, as they almost all contain little explosive charges that can turn you against an aspect or form a deep prejudice. However if you're going to use a cookbook, I recommend Isabel Hickey's true classic, *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*. Even this goes a little heavy on concepts like karma, so take it with a grain of salt — but I trust it more than most others.

As for Chiron. If you read a variety of articles and viewpoints, you will slowly start to assemble a composite picture of this interesting, useful and relatively new energy in astrology. The new part is important to remember because many people don't have the words, pictures or ideas to describe just what Chiron is. But we start to find them when we work with holistic healing methods that are able to consider 'whole system' or integrated approaches to life. However, more than just the language, what we're often missing with Chiron is the conceptual framework to hold the information. This we acquire by practice and learning, and by making associations with other aspects of life.

Chiron is a point that we use — both in the natal chart and exploring transits — that helps us integrate our reality, raise our awareness and go through transformational changes. Transformational is a word that's used a lot, and the root of the word is 'form'. But Chiron also deals with content, and the substance can change as well. So I would add, 'trans-substantiation' as well. Where Chiron is involved, there can be long delays and also rapid changes. Often the rapid changes follow long delays, and then are set off by a transit.

To sum up the less subtle points, the process of Chiron has a few prominent expressions, which tip us off that it's the particular thing that's in action. They will act in different ways at different times of life. They include:

1. **Standing out.** Chiron's placement shows where we must stand out of the crowd, from the family, from society. Look to the house placement for the place in life we do the standing out, and the sign placement for the underlying energy, style and associated planetary expression (the ruler of that sign, i.e., Mercury if Chiron is in Gemini). This standing out can be a positive expression of self, or it can be in compensation for fear or other shadow material; but it seems to matter little.

2. **A hurt place where we gather strength.** Chiron often represents someplace we've experienced many injuries, a sense of invisibility or a sense of disconnect or loss. But these can work like acupuncture needles and spur the flow of vital energy and provide a point of concentration for that energy. What can happen, consciously or not, is that people will gather unusual talents around their Chiron placement. If we process this all consciously, it can become a great asset; if we don't, the shadow material can gather strength and create disruptions in life.

3. **A gift we have to offer society.** In people who choose to evolve consciously, Chiron functions as a resource that can be made available to many people. It's a place in our charts where we gather wisdom, talent and the drive to serve, and when given half a chance — that is, when allowed to be a conscious part of life, and when the healing mission of this life is taken seriously — it comes out beautifully and can help many people. Often, this is as what we currently call a 'healer' — that is, someone in a helping role, or in another role that is seen as such.

4. **The quest for experience.** We will always seek actual direct experience where Chiron is, which can offer lots of insight into

why people need to do what they need to do. Don't fight it; you might as well go along with the program.

Now, if you project these qualities into the life of a child, you might get the idea that it's a pretty important planet to understand. Kids feel their charts! The Chiron effect is doubled because much of what occurs with Chiron begins when we are children, and the experience for the rest of the life is set up. So by looking at a child's birth chart, you can see something about where their likely source of pain, talent and desire to serve are concentrated. You can see aspects of life where they must stand out. And you can see where they are going to focus a lot of awareness, probably far more than the adults around them.

You assess this with a simple eyeballing of the chart: what's the house of Chiron's placement? What is the sign? You don't necessarily need a book about Chiron to understand something about the placement; you just need to remember that Chiron is going to give added emphasis to that house and sign, and also any associated planets (for another example, Jupiter, if Chiron falls in Sagittarius).

While the Sun, Moon and ascendant can represent aspects of the personality, the identity and needs, as well as represent our parents and how they perceive us, Chiron represents a psychological engine and a psychic process. It can be identified with by a person more, or less. Dale O'Brien gives a pointer for checking whether people are likely to feel or sense the process of Chiron consciously, or not.

The more aspects Chiron makes to personal planets (that is, ascendant, Moon, Sun, Mercury, Venus, or Mars), the more personally we identify with it. That may seem like a lot of planets for Chiron to potentially connect with, but there are plenty of charts where there is no solid dialog between Chiron and any of these bodies, or it meets up with one or two of them in an obscure way and that's it.

The more aspects to the inner or personal planets, the more 'chirotic' the person is.

So have a look at the aspect table (aspectarian, which lists all the angles between planets — one comes with most natal charts) in a chart where Chiron is included and count the number of aspects Chiron makes to personal planets and points, then find them in the chart, and see what's going on.

Even if you're not a terribly experienced astrologer but you know the glyphs and the houses, I suggest you spend some time working to figure out the placement, before going to a book.

The book is always there, but your ability to look at the chart in an unprejudiced way is temporary. Jot down your first impressions. Often, the esoteric arts have a way of pointing out very obvious things we ordinarily might have missed.

You can look at the planet and ask yourself: What would it feel like to experience the effects of that house in a really, really intense way? (You can definitely use a book for the house interpretations, which are fairly consistent from astrologer to astrologer and which really do apply to most people.) Then you add Chiron and imagine it's a kind of laser beam focusing the energy into consciousness, in a way that other people may not seem to relate to or understand.

An Example: 4th House Chiron

Let's take the 4th house, for one example, which deals with security, safety, the parents, often particularly the father, the environment, the early surroundings and what kind of emotional effect they have on the person. The 4th is also an angular house — one of the four 'master' houses that dominate consciousness. These are the 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th houses. Planets in these houses are the ones we can usually feel the most poignantly and are the fastest acting.

You can begin with the obvious. With astrology that is always a good idea. It all comes down to the houses. So you see a planet and start asking about the basic themes of the house. What is the child's relationship with their home and with dad? Do they feel safe, and why or why not? What is the relationship between the parents like? There doesn't need to be anything particularly shocking, but if you sketch out the obvious facts, the basic who, what, where and when, and mull it over for a couple of days, you may see a pattern. It's always fair to look at the chart and ask, "What's that planet doing that house?" You can assume it's there for a reason, and that it has a few messages for you.

Now, the 4th house is a sensitive place. Children, and all people, with this placement feel their environments poignantly. Much that supports or hurts them is likely to be right in their immediate environment. If there is sickness of any kind (a good theme to bring to Chiron) the cure will likely be found or contributed to through factors the environment. With astrology you need to think in a little different way. The feelings a person is surrounded by are as much a part of the environment as is the window cleaner.

And the extreme sensitivity of the 4th house can come out in many different ways, but if a 4th house Chiron child is pushing certain issues or displaying certain needs in an intense way, you might want to ask what the emotional connection is, even if there is no obvious one. This is why we have astrology.

Often, it's enough to ask the question, whatever the specifics: "Hmmm, that's an interesting idea. What's the connection?"

As for what to do when you get data. Let's use the fictitious example of the 4th house Chiron child. Let's say the father is not around, or has a struggle that makes him unavailable. Let's say the child has an issue feeling safe. And let's say he gets a rash on his arms. It's a real gift when astrology points to the connections we might miss: for example, the missing father and the feeling of not being safe. So, we have a clue, something to be aware of. If

you catch the child in a moment of feeling not so safe, you can ask: "Do you miss dad?"

With this child, it would be a very good idea to keep an eye on surrogate father figures. They are as likely to present opportunities for repeat injuries as they are to present opportunities for healing. It would probably be a very good idea for the mother or caregiver to make sure there are some older men in the child's life who are NOT transient (i.e., lovers). The need some lasting stable relationship with a man who understands how to create a safe space for a child.

One last thing to do would be to ask directly, "What do you need to feel safe?" And then try to do whatever they need. You might also consider taking them on a perimeter check each night, so they can see and feel in their body that the house is secure.

There is a homeopathic connection here. It works out that a group of homeopathic remedies address father issues and security issues — the calcium group, such as calcium carbonate. This might be a place to look for some help, once environmental and emotional factors have been investigated and addressed.

Example: 12th House Chiron

For the next example, let's use a very different kind of house, and a real child. This is a young girl in the UK. She has Chiron in Sagittarius and just above the ascendant, in the 12th house.

I know enough about her personally to know she is an extremely vivid dreamer (12th house focus, with healing for most problems to be found in dreams and sleep), and has a lot to say about religion and God. I also know she is in Catholic school, despite not being Catholic, because it's the best option in her area. However, she has a very intense relationship with religious symbolism; it's quite real to her and she takes the stories literally. But in a similar way she is also able to see through them, to their inner themes, and how damaging they can be.

"She is very worried about Catholicism," her mom wrote to me. This is all typical enough of Chiron in Sagittarius.

"She cried like she'd had a personal bereavement because Jesus died," her mom added.

Early Chiron pioneers pointed out that Chiron often works as a stand-in for the Christ energy. It's kind of how someone experiences their own personal Jesus — the healer, teacher and one who 'takes on sin' — and where in their chart they go through many resurrections. The 12th house placement is a good visual for this, with the chart of a child who dreams vividly and has a lot to say about religion.

What we find in the 12th can often seem so far away, as if it has gone missing, or has died. And sometimes it can be all the more vivid for not being readily present.

Our Chiron in Sagittarius girl has some exposure to goddess-based religion and to astrology; she had heard of Venus. Her mom wrote, "Venus seemed to be her salvation [for her grief around Jesus], which is opposite her Chiron." Also, she has made up her own version of mythology, about Jesus and Venus being lovers, which is quite real to her — as real as anything she has been given in school.

Now, the one thing to do with a child like this is mainly to take her seriously. Listen to her ideas, her stories and her dreams. They will be interesting at worst and helpful at best. They are likely to be extremely interesting, actually, and provide plenty of food for thought for her caregivers.

The next thing not to do is get triggered or be defensive. If the parent happens not to be open minded about spirituality and religion (fortunately, her mom is well informed and open-minded) then the girl could certainly provoke some religious or authority issues in the parent. She is certainly presenting challenges to her teachers in Catholic school, who love when you go along with

dogma without asking questions. Chiron in this placement will stand out as a kind of natural born mystic, and is not going to take bullshit; Sagittarius Chiron is like having the Sun, Moon and rising in Sagittarius (she happens to be Sagittarius rising and have other energies around her ascendant — including Quaoar and Pluto).

I suggested that her mom keep a dream diary and also keep artifacts of her early religious books so she has them to deconstruct when she is a little older.

To sum up...

It seems from this introduction that understanding or exploring a child's Chiron placement could be an important part of their holistic care. There is not much published literature that I know of dealing with the subject — so it's best to be extra careful, conscious and to proceed slowly. If you take the spirit that the chart is a better source of questions than it is of answers, than exploring your child's Chiron position will be helpful and useful without creating prejudices. Remember that charts excel at providing a viewpoint, subject matter for questions and a way to approach a subject. It's always important to allow anyone, including children, to speak for themselves and for their charts.

Chiron encourages experience, curiosity, and awareness. Chiron also thrives with documentation, so in all cases, keeping track of the things associated with your child's Chiron sign — or chart in general — will bear fruit, even if it's in the long run. A relationship with one's astrology is a lifelong process and these early looks are just the beginning.



A Visit With Joe

Planet Waves

February 23, 2007

[Link to original](#)

LAST WEEKEND in Woodstock, catching up with people and places, I called up Joe Trusso, my former therapist and mentor, which I usually do when I'm in town. I wanted to stop by for a moment and say hello, get a look at him and let him know I'm doing well. He said come over; we have company, but stop by. I was traveling with Priya Kale, whose blog you read on [Page](#)

[Two](#) of Planet Waves. Few people in my life have ever met Joe, though many have heard of him.

We got there as some relatives were leaving, so he stashed us in his counseling room while he sorted out his household. I hadn't been in that room for quite a while. Many things were familiar, some were new. He had added a gem case to the space, made of dark-colored wood and glass, lit beautifully with a halogen lamp. In it was a stunning collection of rocks and minerals.

I recognized the [Herkimer diamonds](#), fossilized [trilobites](#) and a few other things, all of which I knew he had dug out of the ground himself, polished and created into this once in a world presentation. Joe is a Taurus, and this display was the vivid essence of that sign: things of deep personal worth and beauty. He's Virgo rising and loves the science of it all, as well.

A few minutes later he joined us, and noticing that we were studying his rock collection, started telling stories of how and where he found the specimens. The [trilobites](#) were coated in iron pyrite (fool's gold) and looked like they were alive and bathed in sunlight. The best Herkimers (diamond-shaped quartz crystals which form in extremely hard dolostone), he said, were often found after someone mining them was injured, often to the point of bleeding.

He told one gruesome story of a major find involving a sledgehammer bouncing off the ridiculously hard rock and hitting someone on the forehead. The next day, the most magnificent Herkimers were found by the same person, right there. And he said a cluster in his display case had shown up after a pretty good hand injury he'd sustained. I asked if he thought there was some blood price involved, and he said he didn't know — but that was typically how it happened.

I added a story about having my first and most severe asthma attack at the Herkimer mine many years earlier, where I was working helping with the macrobiotic catering of a crystal-digging trip.

Somehow the discussion evolved into the psychology of the question "why?" I said that lately I had been on a campaign against this word, which never seems to have an answer. I've noticed that people ask why when they don't really want the answer; when people say "why?" it's often like they're announcing that they're ready to stop thinking.

Joe responded by saying that [Fritz Perls](#), one of his teachers and one of the founders of [Gestalt Therapy](#), felt that the question "why?" was covering up a statement. For example, "Why are you going to the store?" is really statement of fact: "You are going to the store." So on the surface it looks like question. Below the surface it's really an affirmation of reality.

We went through a few examples of this. "Why are you going out?" equals, "You are going out." "Why don't you love me?" equals, "You don't love me," and so on. This by the way is a typically brilliant bit of Fritz Perls therapy judo, all of which is designed to reveal what is going on in the here and now. Once you admit what is so, you can work with it a lot better.

Finally he said, "What are you doing? Would you like to sit down?"

I was happy to. As a client of Joe's through much of the 90s, I was familiar with the extent to which he values his privacy and time, and does not engage casually with his clients. Though I'm a former client, this is something I continue to respect. I was happy to accept his invitation. We stepped over in the direction of the chairs, a blue couch and matching thick blue club chair.

The couch was usually reserved for him, the club chair for his clients. The same thing flashed through Joe's mind and mine: who's going to take the client chair? He looked at me and said with a joking tone, "I'm not sitting there." I said, "Well I'm not sitting there." We took the couch. Priya was happy to have the hot seat. The conversation, however, bore no resemblance to therapy. Right beneath the surface of our pastime discussion of

the blood price of minerals and the question “why?” was a deep concern about the state of the world.

“When I come back into the United States,” I said, “the first thing I notice is that everything is bigger. The second thing I notice is that the problems we’re facing here seem much smaller or just disappear. From Europe, from a distance, it looks like a very serious situation. When I get here, life seems pretty normal. My friends are still doing their thing. Karen is still teaching dance and working for the rescue squad. Michael is doing his timber harvesting business, Chris is digging up old deeds as a title searcher, Jason and Brian are publishing *Chronogram*. The land is still here, the trees are here.”

“That may be because of who you know and where they are in life,” he said, suggesting that they’re in pretty stable places. They are also people who have been through a lot of changes consciously. “Many of the people I talk to are scared,” he said. He described a climate of fear that seemed to soak through and almost subsume many of the people he was speaking with, and he does speak with quite a few people. The existence of fear has never been much of a mystery to him. “There are a lot of scared people,” he once said to me, years ago, as a kind of warning. But this day, he was describing something different, something more ominous.

We agreed that our daily routines and activities hide most of this. Much of what we call culture masks over the underlying reality of what is happening in the world and how it’s impacting us as individuals. Britney Spears’ haircut comes to mind. It was not just the fact that she cut her hair off, making national news. It was that hour after hour, it was addressed on every “news and entertainment” program endlessly for three days, along with psychiatrists analyzing the meaning of it all, the hairdresser who refused to do the clipping being bestowed her 13 minutes of world fame, and the slew of young-women newscasters bantering on about how fucked up another young woman is.

However, there is still gasoline, most people have jobs, and as Joe pointed out, "This room is 70 degrees." So as long as there are no major disruptions to life, such as your house getting flooded by climate change or not being able to get to work because there is no gas or it's \$12 a gallon, or you were arrested for sending an email, most people can live the illusion that things are fine; all the while things keep getting weirder. We have the choice to either not pay attention and pretend it doesn't really matter; or to pay attention, feel the fear, feel the anger, and deal with the changes in a creative or at least constructive way.

I talked a bit about my recent trip to [Auschwitz](#) and how it was impossible for me to ignore reports of Halliburton building detention facilities in the United States, or triple-decker train cars outfitted with shackles. There, getting your head shaved had a different meaning. Another Taurus, Bono, once remarked that sometimes a conscience can really be a pest.

Meanwhile, there is a bloodbath going on in Iraq, and all the attention and money is being diverted there while the real terrorist action is in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Bush professes his admiration for [General Pervez Musharraf](#), the military dictator of Pakistan, who overthrew the government in 1999 and declared himself president in 2001; many believe he is also keeping bin Laden tucked away, which is a logical supposition. He and Priya knew a lot more about this situation than I did. The reeking hypocrisy of Bush's relationship with Musharraf is lost on nearly everyone.

And all the while, evermore blood is being soaked into the ground right where the oil is being pumped out of the ground, as if the Earth is exacting a price for the mineral wealth we are mindlessly exploiting in our huge cars, SUVs and tons of virgin plastic garbage bags.

As all this happens, the most severely injured American servicemen and women are coming home to a rat and mice-infested Walter Reed Army Medical Center, learning to walk on fake limbs as the moldy ceilings and walls crumble around them.

John Cory wrote on [Truthout](#) this week, "Every Congressional office should be flooded with phone calls and email demanding not only an investigation, but also immediate funding and corrective action on the treatment of our veterans. Viewers should require every media outlet that has dedicated untold hours and resources to the Anna Nicole Smith story to cover the failure of this administration to prioritize the healing and medical support of our troops and the wounded and their families."

This occurs while I'm seeing more and more propaganda about Iran in the American press and television, which we have covered recently in Planet Waves. The kind of indoctrination campaign we've witnessed many times before, including warming up for Bush War I and Bush War II, is underway with Iran: they are supplying weapons to the insurgency, they are developing a nuclear program, on and on — all reasons to start the bombing. Aircraft carrier groups are assembling in the Persian Gulf, and to anyone who was paying attention as the last few wars happened, it seems that another one is underway.

In an editorial titled, "[Making Martial Law Easier](#)," the editors of *The New York Times* earlier this week warned, "A disturbing recent phenomenon in Washington is that laws that strike to the heart of American democracy have been passed in the dead of night. So it was with a provision quietly tucked into the enormous defense budget bill, at the Bush administration's behest, that makes it easier for a president to override local control of law enforcement and declare martial law."

I think we need to be thinking not only about why such laws are being passed, but more to the point, the fact that they are being passed secretly, and how they are not getting more press attention.

The Times followed up with a second editorial later in the week, called, [American Liberty at the Precipice](#).

"In another low moment for American justice," the editors wrote, "a federal appeals court ruled on Tuesday that detainees held at

the prison camp at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, do not have the right to be heard in court. The ruling relied on a shameful law that President Bush stampeded through Congress last fall that gives dangerously short shrift to the Constitution. The right of prisoners to challenge their confinement — habeas corpus — is enshrined in the Constitution and is central to American liberty. Congress and the Supreme Court should act quickly and forcefully to undo the grievous damage that last fall's law, and this week's ruling, have done to this basic freedom."

And finally, as of press time, the jury is still out in the Scooter Libby case. Though this is on one level about the [spy-outing situation](#), it's really a trial about how the Bush administration used false "intelligence" to convince Congress and the public to go along with the plan to invade Iraq, and took revenge on someone who told the truth. "There is a cloud over the vice president — a cloud over the White House over what happened," according to a copy of the transcript of special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's closing statements to the jury.

Remarkably, this only seems to make the smallest difference to most people; it is barely making national news. Yet what it adds up to is fear, a corrosive, toxic fear that is slowly smothering people, eating away at all our lives from the bottom, even as we drive to work every day, even as we eat dinner every night, even as the news drones on about Anna Nicole Smith's body. We will have a lot of explaining to do to our grandchildren, when they are old enough to understand.

Joe's feeling was that as long as life continued as usual, people could stay asleep and the damage would continue to happen. Basically, he felt that the most effective thing would be a disruption that would break some of the fixed mental patterns and raise awareness — something many people feel is coming — and which others feel is necessary so that we don't get caught in the crystallized negative patterns that are forming at the beginning of the Age of Aquarius.

And he pointed out a paradox that I've noticed many times, which makes the idea of a "disruption" seem like not such a good thing to mess with. People who are into war and violence have an advantage, because they are willing to kill and terrify people, and do so readily; whereas people who are into peace are generally not willing to kill or resort to extreme measures. They are as a result subject to having brute power used against them, which they cannot and will not marshal themselves. What they can do, however, is be intelligent, clever and willing to work together — which is more difficult and takes a lot longer than using force and fear, and is still subject to attack by those things.

I sat there with Joe and Priya in a room where I had learned so much about myself, where I had decoded my parents and confronted my father, and discussed all my major stories as an investigative journalist, and through all the times I had played for keeps with state officials in court, and experienced so many changes. This was quite literally the room where I had learned to be a man, and come to many realizations about what my life means.

To the extent that I am able to take on the challenges of the world rather than be in a constant state of war within myself, I have my own determination and my work with Joe to thank. And at that moment I was aware that I was no longer a client, no longer one being mentored, but one who was doing my best in the world to live for, support, and when necessary, fight for the values of dignity and freedom. One of Joe's favorite concepts is *ethos*, something I was aware of in the world when I walked into his space the first time. I see [ethos](#) as a sacred flame that is passed from one generation to the next, and which lights the darkness of the world.

Most of our discussions had happened in a different time; my last official session with Joe was [Aug. 11, 1999](#) — the day of the grand cross and total solar eclipse in Leo. The world has changed a lot since then; indeed, we seem to live on a different planet, one with far less hope but also fewer possibilities. But Joe had

once said that if he were to hang a sign above his door, it would say, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here."

The light had faded outside and a beautiful late afternoon had dissolved into a cold winter night. It was a much gloomier discussion than I had planned to have, but in the Gestalt spirit, it was indeed a discussion of what is so. I kept wishing the fireplace next to me were lit.

Joe said he had to move on with his evening, but before doing so, he wanted to show us some old Japanese woodcut prints. This was an unusual invitation, into his private living space for a brief art tour. Looking back on this, I have a feeling the invitation may have been designed to leave us in a different here-and-now than the one we had worked our way into, though I don't know. Focus on beauty is one of those dependable Gestalt techniques; in truth, beauty is the remedy for all that is wrong. The prints were magnificent, the colors rich and unworldly. He explained that the woodcuts were made and aligned perfectly by hand, and at some point had been clipped from a travel guide, surviving well over a century and ending up on that wall.

Joe finally walked us downstairs, and out through the garage. We had to pass through the room where he does his work on rocks and minerals, and I got to see the diamond saw for the first time. I asked if I could take his picture, something I've been doing on this trip with everyone I remember to ask.

We said goodbye, hugged, and I heard several admonitions to pay attention and take care of myself — not the "have fun" which was his usual way of saying goodbye, and the best advice I've ever been given. He reminded me that I'm doing good work in the world, a comment that means more to me coming from him than anyone. Maybe it was the damp, foggy night. But honestly, I have never had such a strong feeling of walking away from him and into an uncertain world, not my own life but the world itself, one possessed less with the feeling of an adventure and more the feeling of a dark dream, but with enough light in my mind at least to see where I'm going.

Being aware of this dark dream is not “focusing on the negative” but rather, focusing on what is so. Then, maybe instead of asking why, we can address the facts, and dream a new dream.

Small World Stories: Chiron

Small Word Stories

January 2008

[Link to original](#) | [More Small Worlds](#)



Way at the beginning, someone named Al Morrison summed up Chiron brilliantly, if incompletely, when he called it the 'inconvenient benefic'.

Chiron nearly always bestows a profound gift; it will save us over and over, waking us up just in the nick of time; but the events surrounding it almost always seem a bit shocking as they occur.

Though over time, a degree of mastery of Chiron's most fundamental energy may be attained: and that energy is awareness.

This quality extends through all the Centaur planets which arrived after [Pholus](#) (the second Centaur) was discovered in 1992; each makes us aware of something different, and each helps us reclaim some cast-off aspect of our existence. They all point to what are typically unnoticed cycles of our lives, thereby calling

attention to patterns of changes we might otherwise have missed.

Chiron has an orbit of just under 51 years. It is elongated such that at one end, Chiron will move through Virgo and Libra in about 18 months each, while at the other, it will move through Pisces and Aries in about 9 years. This means that at one phase of history people can have a key Chiron transit (such as Chiron square its own natal position) as young as seven and as old as 23.

Some say the basic nature of Chiron is about healing, but if that is true, awareness is the most frequent agent of that process. Melanie Reinhart gives the keyword *transition*; when awareness changes, that is inherently a transition. Chiron may arrive in the form of a practitioner who assists with a change or healing process, and what most healers teach is awareness, principally self-awareness. This often arrives in the form of change, and what change most often teaches us is awareness.

This was well understood at the time of Chiron's discovery in 1977, when there was still such a thing as the Human Potential Movement: a secular (not spiritual) movement that involved people teaching one another to be aware, holding the space for one another to own their faults and virtues, and to take responsibility for their lives as a conscious act. Chiron remains a living agent of the Human Potential Movement, or more accurately, of any movement devoted to expressing human potential.

Anyone who has tried knows how difficult this usually is. We encounter the maxim *love brings up everything unlike itself*. We meet those who assist us in our transition consciously and effectively; they are Chirotic in nature. We meet others who assist us through some process of injury and they are Chirotic if we use that injury to transcend being a victim. We also meet healers who wound, who are one of the most common manifestations of Chiron's shadow side.

Perhaps if humanity were not so intent on denying its awareness, ignoring its knowledge, suppressing its potential and investing its energy in greed, Chiron would feel gentler or not be necessary at all. Perhaps if we considered understanding and embracing our shadow nature as important as seeking the light in our spiritual pursuits, we would not need Chiron. If it were more encouraged to allow curiosity its place, and to let it be a teacher, we would not depend so heavily on Chiron to instigate the experiences and crises we need to learn and grow.

Perhaps if we counted ourselves among the animals we possess, abuse, hunt and consume, connecting with the wounded nature of Chiron's animal being — in the myth, his lower body is afflicted — would not be so difficult. Yet religion, in teaching us to deny our animal nature, has in a sense trapped us in our shadow nature; our minds cast a long shadow over our bodies. Chiron fundamentally addresses the mind-body split from which so many people suffer. Almost all events or developments involving Chiron can be seen in terms of mind/body divisions. Typically any healing associated with Chiron can arrive in the form of becoming aware of those divisions.

The most poignant example of such injuries can be seen in our approach to sexuality in Western culture. We crave sex; we romanticize it; we exploit it for every possible purpose; we demonize it and make it a crime. Then, based on the lack of awareness necessary to make any of that happen, we get caught in the injuries of guilt, possession and jealousy. We can, understandably, confuse guilt and jealousy with sexuality itself.

If, under the influence of a Chiron transit and its accompanying events, we investigate these things, we might confuse the shadow material that emerges with Chiron itself, and not view Chiron as the source or metaphor for the *awareness that is helping us be free*. The ultimate goal of any Chiron process, or perhaps any life process, is attaining freedom, and freedom is

most meaningfully experienced as the freedom to make a conscious decision.

Chiron is about integrating the experiences that make us aware of ourselves, our role in the community and our relationships with others. In this respect, the way to understand Chiron is not by book learning or astrological theory, but rather by investigating the events associated with Chiron transits, and our responses to them. Just as with a homeopathic remedy, there is no one interpretation of any Chiron placement, transit or experience.

Some theory is helpful, but Chiron is primarily a workbook. The astrology student working on per own chart, or the astrologer serving a client, will get the necessary knowledge about a Chiron placement by listening carefully to the events from a series of several Chiron transits, noting the common threads and finally, noticing the direction of the overall movement.

Appropriate questions relating to these transits include, 'What did you learn?' , 'What did you become aware of?', and 'What are you aware of now?'

Chiron teaches through direct knowledge, a thing almost unheard of in our current era of history. Traditional astrologers who say they have difficulty grasping Chiron probably have this trouble because they are trying to get it in theory first, rather than through what we and our clients learn from real-life developments.

It is best not to think of Chiron as a planet to be interpreted but rather as a sequence of events in a lifetime, going back to childhood or before. These events both teach values and describe a growth process.

What you have in the above paragraphs is more than enough theory to apply Chiron in astrological practice. No books are necessary; if you check the transits of Chiron — to its own natal position; to the ascendant and other angles; and to key points in

the chart — you will get a sense of the process in that individual. It may be possible to understand the transition or struggle for consciousness involved, and intuitively sense the next step; that is, if you are listening carefully for clues to what is happening beneath and behind the story line.

Look for motives and how they manifest; choices and how they end up; and what just seems to happen as time goes on. You are not just looking for a litany of the past. You are looking for patterns, and for some expression of how the person feels about the past in the present, as if it were still a living thing.

Through this process of awareness-raising, we can begin to tap into some of the promise of Chiron's discovery degree, 4 degrees of Taurus, which is 'The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow' — that which links the celestial and mundane orders of reality, or, translated in to human terms, the mind and the body, which are connected by awareness.

Chiron In the Natal Chart

The typical quality of one's natal Chiron might sound like this. It's a place of obvious focus, sometimes success, often what you could call productive struggle. Fritz Perls referred to the power of frustration as a teacher, and this is often how natal Chiron feels. One of two things occurs frequently: unusual power gathers there, special talent, an exception granted or unusual knowledge gained; or there is repeated injury. All together, these comprise a process of experience and learning.

This locus of experience will typically take on the qualities of the house placement. The person may not feel particularly strong there; it may seem like a point of special weakness. The sign placement will provide a kind of filter and show the contact between the individual experience (the house) and the collective (the sign). The sign will also show something of the style of the expression.

The placement will be expressed, seemingly blocked, or modified by the aspects involved. While these are cataloged in some books, careful listening to circumstances at the time of Chiron transits will reveal the nature of the natal position and the aspects. In general, we could say that Chiron will try to raise an unconscious Pluto process to full awareness; it will tend to focus the diffuse experience of Neptune; it will ground the radical changes of Saturn in some tangible form; and it will give a clear expression to the wisdom and experience-seeking of Jupiter.

Where an inner planet is involved, the developing and expressing the quality of that planet will be intensified, as if it's cracked open and some element of its nature is allowed to come out; it will tend to dominate the life, though in different ways at different times.

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Events and developments at the time of transits to Chiron's natal position will bring up situations that express the nature of the natal placement. The natal themes and the transit themes are closely related, perhaps more so than with any other planet. The fundamental experience of developing and focusing consciousness of the natal placement will persist, seeming to reach peaks at the time of the transit, and in the process entirely new levels of expression can be attained.

When Chiron is on an angle natively, it can connote a crisis that is existential, that is, having a life or death quality, or seeming to relate to a struggle for the right to exist. The ability to ground the

process of Chiron in a conscious and productive way seems to be related to whether the aspect pattern is connected to the angles or not. If there are not aspects to the angles, Chiron will feel like something in the background without a name. To gain access to the process, the astrologer will need to do a little more teaching and a little more pointing to how certain key experiences connect to Chiron themes.

Now, it is arguable that the process of cultivating awareness happens on some level with every planet, but more accurately we could describe Chiron as reflecting the process of astrology itself. Astrology seems to involve little other than learning to pay attention. A bunch of weird glyphs are involved, true. But as anyone who has studied astrology for an hour knows, most of what we do is try to become aware of what they are saying.

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Crossing the Borders and Boundaries of Time

[section] Introduction to Chiron

Planet Waves

May 23, 2008

[Link to original](#)

Way at the beginning, someone named Al Morrison summed up Chiron brilliantly, if incompletely, when he called it the 'inconvenient benefic'. Chiron nearly always bestows a profound gift; it will save us over and over, waking us up just in the nick of time; but the events surrounding it almost always seem a bit shocking as they occur. Though over time, a degree of mastery of Chiron's most fundamental energy may be attained: and that energy is awareness.

This quality extends through all the Centaur planets which arrived after **Pholus** (the second Centaur) was discovered in 1992; each makes us aware of something different, and each helps us reclaim some cast-off aspect of our existence. They all point to what are typically unnoticed cycles of our lives, thereby calling attention to patterns of changes we might otherwise have missed.

Chiron has an orbit of just under 51 years. It is elongated such that at one end, Chiron will move through Virgo and Libra in about 18 months each, while at the other, it will move through Pisces and Aries in about nine years. This means that at one phase of history people can have a key Chiron transit (such as Chiron square its own natal position) as young as seven and as old as 23.

Some say the basic nature of Chiron is about healing, but if that is true, awareness is the most frequent agent of that process. Melanie Reinhart gives the keyword *transition*; when awareness changes, that is inherently a transition. Chiron may arrive in the form of a practitioner who assists with a change or healing process, and what most healers teach is awareness, principally self-awareness. This often arrives in the form of change, and what change most often teaches us is awareness.

This was well understood at the time of Chiron's discovery in 1977, when there was still such a thing as the Human Potential Movement: a secular (not spiritual) movement that involved people teaching one another to be aware, holding the space for one another to own their faults and virtues, and to take responsibility for their lives as a conscious act. Chiron remains a living agent of the Human Potential Movement, or more accurately, of any movement devoted to expressing human potential.

Anyone who has tried knows how difficult this usually is. We encounter the maxim *love brings up everything unlike itself*. We meet those who assist us in our transition consciously and effectively; they are Chirotic in nature. We meet others who assist us through some process of injury and they are Chirotic if we use that injury to transcend being a victim. We also meet healers who wound, who are one of the most common manifestations of Chiron's shadow side.

Perhaps if humanity were not so intent on denying its awareness, ignoring its knowledge, suppressing its potential and investing its energy in greed, Chiron would feel gentler or not be necessary at all. Perhaps if we considered understanding and embracing our shadow nature as important as seeking the light in our spiritual pursuits, we would not need Chiron. If it were more encouraged to allow curiosity its place, and to let it be a teacher, we would not depend so heavily on Chiron to instigate the experiences and crises we need to learn and grow.

Perhaps if we counted ourselves among the animals we possess, abuse, hunt and consume, connecting with the wounded nature of Chiron's animal being — in the myth, his lower body is afflicted — would not be so difficult. Yet religion, in teaching us to deny our animal nature, has in a sense trapped us in our shadow nature; our minds cast a long shadow over our bodies. Chiron fundamentally addresses the mind-body split from which so many people suffer. Almost all events or developments involving Chiron can be seen in terms of mind/body divisions. Typically any healing associated with Chiron can arrive in the form of becoming aware of those divisions.

The most poignant example of such injuries can be seen in our approach to sexuality in Western culture. We crave sex; we romanticize it; we exploit it for every possible purpose; we demonize it and make it a crime. Then, based on the lack of awareness necessary to make any of that happen, we get caught in the injuries of guilt, possession and jealousy.

We can, understandably, confuse guilt and jealousy with sexuality itself. If, under the influence of a Chiron transit and its accompanying events, we investigate these things, we might confuse the shadow material that emerges with Chiron itself, and not view Chiron as the source or metaphor for the *awareness that is helping us be free*. The ultimate goal of any Chiron process, or perhaps any life process, is attaining freedom, and freedom is most meaningfully experienced as the freedom to make a conscious decision.

Chiron is about integrating the experiences that make us aware of ourselves, our role in the community and our relationships with others. In this respect, the way to understand Chiron is not by book learning or astrological theory, but rather by investigating the events associated with Chiron transits, and our responses to them. Just as with a homeopathic remedy, there is no one interpretation of any Chiron placement, transit or experience. Some theory is helpful, but Chiron is primarily a workbook.

The astrology student working on her own chart, or the astrologer serving a client, will get the necessary knowledge about a Chiron placement by listening carefully to the events from a series of several Chiron transits, noting the common threads and finally, noticing the direction of the overall movement.

Appropriate questions relating to these transits include: 'What did you learn?', 'What did you become aware of?' and 'What are you aware of now?'

Chiron teaches through direct knowledge, a thing almost unheard of in our current era of history. Traditional astrologers who say they have difficulty grasping Chiron probably have this trouble because they are trying to get it in theory first, rather than through what we and our clients learn from real-life developments.

It is best not to think of Chiron as a planet to be interpreted but rather as a sequence of events in a lifetime, going back to childhood or before. These events both teach values and describe a growth process.

What you have in the above paragraphs is more than enough theory to apply Chiron in astrological practice. No books are necessary; if you check the transits of Chiron — to its own natal position; to the ascendant and other angles; and to key points in the chart — you will get a sense of the process in that individual. It may be possible to understand the transition or struggle for consciousness involved, and intuitively sense the next step; that is, if you are listening carefully for clues to what is happening beneath and behind the story line.

Look for motives and how they manifest; choices and how they end up; and what just seems to happen as time goes on. You are not just looking for a litany of the past. You are looking for patterns, and for some expression of how the person feels about the past in the present, as if it were still a living thing.

Through this process of awareness-raising, we can begin to tap into some of the promise of Chiron's discovery degree, 4 degrees of Taurus, which is 'The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow' — that which links the celestial and mundane orders of reality, or, translated into human terms, the mind and the body, which are connected by awareness.

Chiron In the Natal Chart

The typical quality of one's natal Chiron might sound like this. It's a place of obvious focus, sometimes success, often what you could call productive struggle. Fritz Perls referred to the power of frustration as a teacher, and this is often how natal Chiron feels. One of two things occurs frequently: unusual power gathers there, special talent, an exception granted or unusual knowledge gained; or there is repeated injury. All together, these comprise a process of experience and learning.

This locus of experience will typically take on the qualities of the house placement. The person may not feel particularly strong there; it may seem like a point of special weakness. The sign placement will provide a kind of filter and show the contact between the individual experience (the house) and the collective (the sign). The sign will also show something of the style of the expression.

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In Canada, They Call It Therapy

Planet Waves

May 30, 2008

[Link to original](#)

AT OMEGA INSTITUTE last weekend, I did something that in retrospect was pretty daring — start a bunch of relatively new astrology students working with Chiron transits. Looking at the events and experiences surrounding several past Chiron transits is one of the most efficient ways to get an understanding of a person and of their chart.

These transits include Chiron's squares, oppositions and return to its own natal position (each of which happens for a brief phase once per 50-year cycle), as well as Chiron conjunct the ascendant, Sun and Moon.

A friend made up a nifty 100-year Chiron ephemeris that fits on six pages (for easy copying), I brought a new, very fast printer so we could have instant charts for the class and — with a little bit of mindfulness — we had everything we needed to get going.

After a brief introduction, I demonstrated the process on one student whose transits turned out to be quite dramatic and timed precisely to the 50-year orbit of Chiron. The themes of these events all related to his Moon/Chiron conjunction in Capricorn in the 4th house: the result being a long sequence of events involving his home, family and security base. This was astrology in real life, not in theory; and it was astrology connected to a

living client we could all see and dialog with, rather than case study in a book.

Usually, astrology studies begin with the rote memorization of the planets through the signs and houses. Each placement is presumed to have a "meaning," and that meaning is presumed to be static and definitive. For example, I have Venus in Taurus and once I read in a book that this means I will go to the same restaurant every day and order the same thing. Which is precisely what I do, but I think it's purely a coincidence.

The themes of Chiron, as I mentioned last week, are apropos of Omega Institute because it's a holistic studies center dedicated to the raising of awareness, the two most important themes of this archetype. The risk of using Chiron is that material "too deep" will come up, but the friendly part is that when we're truly serving as a facilitator, we don't need to fix anyone or do very much, but rather bear witness to the human condition and serve as an honest reflecting pool. I also thought it was excellent that Mercury in Gemini was stationing retrograde in an exact trine to Chiron as we began the class Friday night.

It can take an hour or two to do this process; I recommend that newer astrology students set aside a full session, and strive to accomplish nothing but hear the client's account of their biographical material.

At this point in my work, I can usually spot check the transits in about half an hour and get a feel for how someone who has come to me processes their changes. Once the lifetime Chiron transits are out in the open, the choices the client faces in the present moment, and the factors influencing them, are much more obvious. The name of the tune is pattern recognition, and seeing where the current experience of life fits into a larger, often hidden pattern — then bringing that pattern to light.

With this done, an astrologer and client can then work with the awareness of what has happened, what it represents and what is

happening — then use that information to look at options, consider possible courses of action and to understand recurring issues much more clearly.

I think this is more effective and far more ethical than an astrologer picking up the chart and telling the client who they are. Yes, there are times to read a chart; Saturn in Capricorn has a different sense of existence than Saturn in Aquarius, and you need to factor that. An astrologer needs to be able to feel the Moon in a chart and be aware of the way that it can dominate the personality. But in a process workspace, the sense of existence needs to come from the client's experiences rather than from the astrologer's projections.

When I teach this process in Canada, they tell me it would be defined as "therapy" and therefore questionably legal to practice without a therapist's license. To which I reply, if there is an astrologer in the room with an ephemeris, a horoscope chart and a client who thinks you're an astrologer, who happens to be chasing a comet around the solar system, that is clearly astrology. It may be "therapeutic," but on the right day so is going to the movies, a prostitute or the gym. That an astrologer might listen to the client for an hour or two before making any pronouncements at all might be considered radical, but I think it's common sense.

When I train established professional astrologers in this, one of their most burning questions is how to condition their clientele not to show up with questions like, "When should I dump my stock portfolio?" or "When is the fabulous guy gonna show up?"

This is easy. When you make the space for people to express their feelings, they usually open up. It happens rarely enough that anyone really cares or has time to listen, or the compassion to actually extend themselves emotionally.

Using the Chiron process, we admit that a person has feelings; and in doing so, we might even get underneath the resistance to

being in a loving relationship, and we might understand something about values concerning money that would influence a financial decision. This seems more in the domain of spiritual work than therapy or traditional astrology, and I would remind everyone that the practice of both spirituality and astrology (and indeed of therapy) are protected speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Such a process also does something vital, which is teach astrologers how transits work, and thus how the natal chart works. It provides a window into human nature and not merely astrological nature as it attempts to explain human nature. Transits inherently remind us all that the cosmos is a thing in motion, and that planets act as waves much more than they act as particles.

Working this way runs precisely opposite to a dominant trend in mainstream astrology, which is harkening back to much older modes of work where things are perceived to be predetermined, predictable and more orderly than life usually turns out to be.

In a world that grows more complex and uncertain every day, the idea that there is a simple answer to the many questions of existence is appealing. Astrology is terrible for finding easy answers. It is excellent for taking a complex view of a situation, seeing the many factors and people involved, observing that everything is in relationship to everything else; and then for making observations that may be reflected both in life and in the chart.

Closer to the heart of the matter is the need for astrology to face the many unknowns that come with existence, rather than attempting to explain the mystery away. That is religion: you co-opt philosophy, sex, death and the meaning of life and sell it to people in a moral package.

An art form connected to an ever-expanding cosmos needs to look at mystery and show respect for mystery. We need to

recognize that each client and each reader presents an entirely different, truly unique worldview, metaphysical view, sexual orientation and set of specific needs.

We need to recognize that astrologers come to the work with their own issues. I encouraged my students, in particular, to know their sexual issues and to understand the specific ways in which religion and their parents messed them up. We may not be able to resolve all of this material before we start working with people, but if we know our issues it will be that much easier to keep them out of the way of our clients. We will be able to assist people who are happier than us, more successful than we are, or who dare to be freer than we would ever dream. And we can also work with those who face situations far more grim than we would ever wish for anyone, but not be coming from a sense of pity or the need to fix anyone.

Along these lines, I recommend that anyone who is working with people as an astrologer be in a therapy process. I don't think it's necessary to have "completed" the process, but rather to be in deep enough to feel vulnerable, and to have opened the lid to the unknown within themselves. Part of therapy is claiming what you feel, what you know and what you don't know, and if you get into those habits, you will be a lot less likely to inflict damage on the people who come to you for help. And if you have a therapist you trust and can go to, you will have a mentor who can guide you through difficult situations with clients, which may arise from time to time.

This is a tall order, I know. But the short way around the tree is to listen, and in order for an astrologer to listen, the first thing that needs to happen is that an astrologer needs to know himself or herself. Clients need to be willing to speak about their lives, their needs and what they want to create with the work — but this is much likelier to happen if the astrologer is open-minded and able to have a modicum of objectivity on their own situation. If your buttons get pushed really easily, or if you can't at least make a space where this doesn't happen, then it would be a lot

better for you to not work with people till you get clear about your own inner condition.

There is also a need to have faith in creativity. In other words, instead of telling a client what is going to happen, it makes much more sense to ask them what they want to happen, what they don't want to happen and to use the awesome power of astrology and awareness to help them make the necessary choices to get the results they need. And this, too, needs to stand apart from spiritual fascism and New Age megalomania: we are only co-creators of the world; it does quite a bit of co-creating with us, and to us.

I think the single most significant thing that an astrologer can do is tune into the creative force behind it all. This is easy: you can start by asking for help, and agreeing that the work be devoted to the greatest good for all concerned. Then you gently move through the plasma of consciousness and see what comes to the surface.

Chiron by its nature turns the discussion to receptive mode, puts the emphasis on healing, and has a useful way of dedicating everything to raising awareness.

And, hey — this is what I learned in my first experience teaching astrology at a world-class holistic study center last weekend.

Chiron in Pisces: The Missing Piece

Planet Waves

April 16, 2010

[Link to original](#)

On April 20 Chiron entered Pisces for the first time since 1969. In last month's edition of Planet Waves, I described our current era as the anti-Sixties, but Chiron in Pisces is very much a true-to-'60s factor.

Think of it as being a little like the Beatles. The '60s were a tumultuous, often frightening, time in history, featuring social upheaval, protests, lots of people taking weird drugs, assassinations of beloved leaders, nonstop war in Southeast Asia, and students at protests getting shot. But in the background, there were the Beatles, putting out a constant stream of peace and love. The '60s would have sucked without the Beatles, and they would have sucked without Chiron in Pisces.

In case you're not familiar with this odd little planet that goes round our Sun every 51 years, I will cover the basics in a moment—but first let's review the basics of '60s astrology. What we usually think of as the '60s was the product of a conjunction: Uranus conjunct Pluto (in Virgo).

This meeting of two "modern planets"—planets discovered by science, rather than planets of antiquity—is a cycle of revolution and innovation. Uranus bestows a surge forward. Pluto grants depth, intensity, and soul. Put them together and you get an era like the one that brought the French Revolution. In the '60s,

Uranus and Pluto were conjunct in Virgo, with explosive results. Yes, there were many positive developments, but always that constant sense of change and tension and the fear of where it was all going.

Across the sky in Pisces—unknown to astronomers or astrologers at the time—was a small planet called Chiron. Though it would not be discovered until 1977, planets are active long before we're aware of them, and Chiron's influence in this era was a protective spiritual backdrop that provided a kind of refuge, a source of inspiration, and a focal point within all the madness that could make a song like "All You Need Is Love" meaningful. If you're born in the '60s, Chiron in Pisces is likely to be a prominent factor in your astrology, and you've been working with it all your life.

Think of Chiron as a condensing device, gathering the viewpoint, imagery, sensations, feelings, and the soulful quality of Pisces and concentrating these things into something tangible: Call it a sense of contact with the world beyond this one, no matter how mad this world becomes.

Chiron Basics

Though Chiron was actually discovered in 1977, there are photographic plates on file going back to 1895 where Chiron can be seen. These are called prediscovery photos, and the year 1895 is interesting because that's when D.D. Palmer discovered or invented chiropractic—named for the centaur from Greek mythology. X-rays were also discovered in 1895, revolutionizing medical diagnosis.

Chiron was the first physician, surgeon, and herbalist. The French word for surgery is still *chirurgie*, and the actual meaning from old Greek seems to be "one who has hands." However, by the time of its discovery in the late '70s, the mythology of Chiron and the other centaurs was a meek footnote to classical literature.

Then came Chiron and, true to form, information starts coming to the surface. Charles Kowal made his discovery the morning of November 1, 1977. The body he discovered was the size of an asteroid, it had the orbit and composition of a comet, and it was described in a popular journalism article as a planet with an orbit between Saturn and Uranus. This made sure it got unusual attention. It was given minor planet catalog number 2,060 (in order of discovery) and, somewhat miraculously, astrology took notice.

Kowal—an astronomer, not an astrologer—gave Chiron its first keyword when he said, “This thing is a maverick.” Among other discoveries, Chiron stood out as highly unusual, and as it works out, people with Chiron prominent in their charts also tend to stand out. They do things their own way. They thrive on being different.

He named it after a centaur presumably due to its hybrid nature; a centaur is a morph of a horse and a man. Naming it after the famous physician of Greek myth, the one who taught medicine to Asclepius, the god of medicine, brought in the dimension of healing. Chiron, an immortal, was injured in a battle, and this brought in the paradox of the wound or injury factor that is so often involved with Chiron, and so often misunderstood. On one level, we have an image of what we face as “spiritual beings” inhabiting the mortal coil, rarely having that sense of being all the way here.

Remembering that mythology is based in symbolism, the “wound” is the sense of imperfection and spiritual disconnection that we often drag around here on the physical plane. Yet this has another dimension, which is that often, the things that seem to hurt us, or challenge us, make us not only strong but also enable us to excel in some way.

Chiron can represent the sense of debility, of not fitting in, or of constant struggle that brings out our greatest talents and develops our strongest character traits. In essence, Chiron is

where we're doing the most significant work on our human potential—or where we get hung up over and over again. Each time we have a Chiron event in our astrology is an opportunity to refocus the cycle.

In careful readings of Chiron in thousands of my clients' charts, I've noticed a few other properties. One involves the holistic nature of Chiron; it wants us to take a whole-system approach to any issue, such as our own lives. Another is about raising awareness, which (not coincidentally) is often related to seeing the whole as opposed to a collection of parts. Chiron transits are often described as "intense," but what's so intense is the attention factor. There is always a call to action, but it might take us quite a while to get there.

Where we have Chiron in our chart is a place where we tend to put enormous energy, often thinking we're getting nowhere. Then we find out just how much progress we have made; how much we have learned, developed, and given to the world. A profoundly influential 20th-century astrologer named Al Morrison noticed that lots of benefit came from Chiron events, but that it often arrived with a challenge; so he called it the *inconvenient benefic*.

Chiron is an intense influence: It accelerates processes, it pushes us to be independent, to look at ourselves, and to deal with our growth. Chiron will try to get our attention gradually; if we ignore the messages, eventually we will experience a collapse of some kind.

Chiron in Pisces: Focusing a Vision

Chiron has an egg-shaped orbit that lasts about 51 years. Because of how stretched out the ellipse is, when Chiron is close to the Sun it will cover a sign in about 18 months. When it's far from the Sun, it will take between seven and nine years. Chiron was close to the Sun in the mid-1990s as it passed through Virgo and Libra, so we all had a rapid succession of Chiron transits then.

Now Chiron is approaching its most distant point from the Sun, so it will take about eight years for Chiron to cover Pisces. Chiron enters Pisces for a 90-day visit on April 20, retrogrades back into Aquarius on July 20, then returns to Pisces to stay on February 8, 2011. So, this spring and summer we get a 90-day introduction to what this energy feels like.

If you like synchronicity, here is something interesting. Through all of 2009 and part of 2010, Chiron was in a conjunction with both the ancient and modern rulers of Pisces—Jupiter and Neptune in late Aquarius. So, Chiron enters Pisces all charged up on Pisces energy, and we have been getting wave pulses of this combination for many months. The combination of Chiron with any Pisces factor is focusing that which was previously invisible.

So, what do we think of when we think of Pisces? What is our experience of this energy? It's a fairly wide spectrum, ranging from the highest reaches of the imagination to our direct experience of God or soul, to the depths of denial, deception, drink, and drugs (Neptune has a lot of keywords starting with the letter *D*). In all, Chiron in Pisces is about helping us see what we have been missing or not paying attention to.

If we focus the strengths of Pisces, that would feel like clarifying our vision for our lives. Most of us have a really hard time with this; many people have no interest at all. Pisces is full of ideas, ideals, and the desire to transcend physicality. Which of these work and which do not? Chiron is calling for a sober assessment of these, to test for what are authentic values and which are things we see through our rosy, New Age glasses.

To put it bluntly, we might discover that we're not as spiritual as we thought, in the sense that we need to apply our beliefs and ideals to the world in a real way. Chiron calls for a practical approach to whatever it touches. If you believe you're spiritual, what is the working end of that equation? Where does that

quality make contact with society—not just your altar or your yoga mat? You could look at Chiron in Pisces as the focusing of dharma: acting as if to hold the world together. Chiron takes us out of the theoretical realm and directly into what comes with evidence and documentation.

Many people find that the whole spiritual thing is really elusive. Chiron in Pisces draws this “elusive” quality into focus. It’s about making conscious contact with the deepest level of who we are, be it soul or our true creative impulse, our deepest emotions or our erotic core.

The Missing Piece

Does it ever seem like something is missing from the world? Does there seem to be a lack of compassion, or empathy, or contact with the deeper nature of existence? We live an impressive—though certainly not unprecedented—time when many religions are bashing it out for political supremacy, waging war, are involved in child sex scandals, and spending as much time taking advantage of the poor as they are taking care of them. And five years of Chiron in Aquarius has certainly brought us deeper into the digital dimension.

You could say that the missing piece is the actual experience of God or the human spiritual attribute. In a time when we need to be working together and focusing on our common interests, our culture continues to push us toward false individuality and separatism every day. The more we indulge these things, the more we really can believe that we don’t have anything in common; that we gain no real benefit from cooperation. Chiron in Pisces is here to open our eyes to these factors.

Characteristic of Chiron, as the denial becomes transparent, this may come with a crisis. The crisis seems like it will be about noticing what is missing—what has been missing for a long time and then awakening to the desire to find it. Yet, if we’re talking about spiritual, then it’s right within reach: compassion,

cooperation, and helping out a little when you see something needs to be done.

We have the option to dismiss the notion of “separate” interests. And you who have done a thousand yoga classes, gone to retreats and intensives, and trained in different healing modalities who isn’t quite doing anything with all those gifts: I’m here as Chiron’s personal spokesperson to let you know it’s time to get busy.

How to Cross an Ocean and How to Light a Fire

Planet Waves

December 31, 2010

[Link to original](#)

"A belief is only a thought you continue to think; and when your beliefs match your desires, then your desires must become your reality." — Abraham

Pisces, as the last sign of the zodiac, represents the primal waters to which thought, action and memory return — and from which they emerge. Seawater contains traces of nearly every element, from oxygen to iron to gold. The history of humanity is contained in the world's oceans, as rivers course through canyons and cities and carry everything to the shore.

Those things carried include the trace contaminants and drugs that have been created during our current age of industry, and which inevitably find their way into the sea — which we then dip into as the supposedly eternal source of food. Meanwhile, scientists have reported a 'water memory' phenomenon, where water retains the properties of what it once held, and responds to everything from thought to prayer to microwaves.

In calendar year 2011, we will learn a lot about Pisces. You can think of the most watery water sign as the universal recipient. It's the cosmic realm that contains every element, and is the place where the story of humanity collects from moment to moment. The ocean refuses no river.

Pisces is about to receive two new planets, which will shape our experience of life and be reflected in changes in the world we know. One is Chiron, which made a brief visit in 2010. On Feb. 8, Chiron will return to Pisces, where it will stay until it begins its process of entering Aries in 2018. Chiron, which has a wildly elliptical orbit, is currently moving at close to its slowest speed through the signs (eight and nine years in Pisces and Aries respectively); at the other end of the dial, in Virgo and Libra (where it was in the mid-1990s) Chiron sails through a sign in 18 months — faster than Saturn moves through a sign (which takes about 30 months). So currently we have Chiron in its incarnation as an outer planet, slow and powerful. I have many reasons to believe this transit will take center stage, even amidst the truly momentous changes portended in the transits of 2011.

Wherever it may be, Chiron focuses attention, and the oceans (signified by Pisces) need attention. So too does the vast interior of human consciousness represented by Pisces. This last sign of the zodiac works for all of us as a source of creativity, emotional contact and escape from the hard-edged world of the ego. If not for Pisces, there would not be music or art, and sex would not be the same. We would not recognize the subtle shades of our emotions. Yet we tend to pollute this realm with everything from mind-bending psychotropic drugs to contact with 5,000 advertisements a day.

Melanie Reinhart says of this sign, "Forms disintegrate, the past is dissolved and our separateness is relinquished." These are processes that extend over time, rather than sudden shifts. Chiron focuses energy and accelerates any movement already underway, instigating its knack for healing first by raising our awareness — or attempting to do so. With Chiron in Pisces (the sign of the hidden dimension), we will see what we've been missing.

The other planet entering Pisces is Neptune, which has not touched the waters of the sign it's so often associated with since shortly after its discovery in the 19th century. Neptune is

wrapping up a long journey across Aquarius, which began in January 1998. This transit has in many ways taken over consciousness; at the beginning of this transit in the late 20th century, nobody would have believed we would be walking around with computers in our pockets, checking email 200 times a day, and basically investing our souls into cyberspace.

Few would have guessed that every local police department would be feeding information into the FBI database (not about arrests — they've done that for decades; I mean about 'suspicious' behavior, your employment history, who you associate with, etc.), something more suitable for the old East Germany than the land of Jefferson and Madison. And who would have foreseen the opportunities this same technology creates for countless digital artists and musicians to create innovative work and share it around the world?

Neptune will exit Aquarius and touch the shore of Pisces on April 4, 2011, staying for a four-month visit. Then in 2012 it will re-enter Pisces to stay until 2025-26. This brief visit of Neptune is another harbinger of the 2012 era, representing a distinct shift in the spiritual vibration of the planet and a new phase of what we can call the history of our inner lives. This influence may overwhelm some; to others it will feel like flushing fresh water into a dry lake.

The extended, simultaneous presence of Chiron and Neptune in Pisces is about developing the awareness and discipline to handle deep emotional, and what you might call mystical, energy. You don't swim across the ocean — you travel in a boat. The same is true for the oceanic multidimensional realms represented by Pisces. You can think of Chiron as the boat, the vessel which includes such tools as perception, analysis, documentation and — most significantly — boundaries.

The first boundary is where the collective realm ends and the individual realm of self begins. That is represented by the imaginary line between Pisces and Aries. Uranus has been in

Pisces for seven years, stirring things up. In February, Uranus enters Aries, illustrating a radical transformation in our sense of self, and how we express the whole idea of self. We dearly need this shock to our self-awareness. I am trusting that Uranus is going to light the fire of curiosity about self, and remind us how being centered within ourselves is the key to sanity. I don't mean narcissism and I don't mean egotism. I mean learning to focus our sense of being at our own core, and relate to the world from that alert, mindful space.

What will protect us from Uranus in Aries turning into an eruption of vanity is Chiron and Neptune connecting us to the spiritual depths of Pisces. It's as if Chiron and Neptune are helping us reach aspects of soul awareness and Uranus in Aries is helping us project our life force through our personality and body. Together, these transits — which last for years — will help many people wake up to the beauty of existence, to life and to participating in the changes that the world is going through.

Speaking of that — the planets I've just described that are making changes in 2011 add momentum to another outer-planet change, which is Pluto in Capricorn. That has been in progress since about 2008, and has come with many changes in society, some of them jarring and frightening.

We think of this variously as the banking crisis, the recession, the foreclosure crisis, the turmoil in government, the big hole in the Federal Reserve, and of course the general sense that everything might collapse tomorrow. That is Pluto restructuring the institutions of the world — *and our ideas about them*. Pluto in Capricorn is liberating something from deep within these institutions — WikiLeaks is a good example. They are having their corporate structures rearranged, and we are having our minds rearranged. We have to think about where and how we fit in differently than we did yesterday.

So it's a good thing that we have Uranus in Aries reminding us to wake up to who we are. Now, here is a clue about 2012. That's

the year that Uranus moving through Aries first meets Pluto moving through Capricorn. This is called the Uranus-Pluto square. This is part of the cycle that delivers some of the most radical astrology ever documented by historians — the astrology of revolution and of revelation. Think of how this is developing — society changing, perhaps seeming like it's 'failing', while at the same time individuals are awakening to our creative power, one at a time getting into the process of creation and change.

The Uranus-Pluto square describes the place where radical self-awareness (Uranus in Aries) meets the vast and sweeping changes that the world is going through (Pluto in Capricorn). We all know the world is changing, and we all know that many of us feel a profound need to rethink who we are and find our role, our place of participation, our point of influence. We may feel driven by passion (Aries) and practical needs (Capricorn) as part of an urgent series of awakening events. The thing to do in the midst of it all is to feel: to be present with your feelings, and to notice what your senses are telling you.

Uranus in Aries is here to light the fire of self, and Chiron and Neptune are here to guide us across the ocean of our soul.

The Folk Art of Therapy

Planet Waves

August 17, 2012

[Link to original](#)

For a few years I've been wanting to write an article about how to pick a therapist. I know that there are those for whom opening up a real discussion about their lives is burning in their soul. Others know they've been dealing with the same problems over and over for years. You may see the same patterns repeating in your relationships, your career, your family life or other aspects of existence, and you decide that it's time for that to change.

Helping people get into therapy has been one of the themes of my astrological practice. I believe in therapy and I think that in American society, so obsessed with denial and immaturity, it's the one thing that nearly everyone needs, if they want to grow up and be not just functional adults, but also people who live fully.

Yet till now I haven't felt comfortable writing the article. So in the interest of good therapy, I'll start with my hesitancy.

First issue is that I've heard a lot of stories of unhelpful or even hurtful experiences. I've had a few myself. I'm aware that there's a lack of trust looming around the whole issue of therapy. There is also a belief that it's superficial.

Next issue is that when most people are choosing a therapist, they are in some kind of crisis, and that's not necessarily the best time to be making such a critical decision. Yet it's the time that it typically happens.

Another issue is that there exist a diversity of misunderstandings about what therapy is and how it works. For many people there is the perception that it's supposed to be a magic or at least deeply mysterious solution. Images of the patient reclined on the couch in Dr. Freud's office come to mind; he and he alone understands the workings of their unconscious — and the old man had a lot of problems (as do many contemporary therapists, who according to Alice Miller tend to come from abusive backgrounds).

Others treat therapy as if "going to talk to someone" is the ultimate admission of weakness — they are somehow not self-sufficient or intelligent enough to live their own lives. They want to go it alone. Lurking in the background here may be the idea that "I don't want to go talk to someone because I'll find out something I don't want to know" or "they're going to tell me I'm crazy." (Often this translates to some form of, "I don't want to deal with my problems.")

Despite the existence of these reservations, I'm confident that good therapy is helpful and possible, though I am skeptical of how many people are actually qualified to do it. When I consider the diversity of innate and trained skills that it's necessary to have, and the level of ethics required, and how bad the training can be, it doesn't seem like there will be too many qualified candidates.

When I knew that I needed therapy in my late 20s, I set just one firm guideline for who I worked with — that the person would not have a Ph.D. Twenty years later, I don't believe that a Ph.D. is an automatic disqualification; I've met some fantastic psychologists who have actually earned their doctorates, and who are truly helpful, wise and compassionate souls.

Yet I can see I was onto a significant distinction: I was looking for someone who practiced the folk art of therapy, rather than the institutional or academic kind. I'll explain the difference in a moment, with a reminder that there are people who are part of both worlds.

My reference to someone named Joe Trusso came from a guy named John, who was having a torrid affair with my then-lover Sabine. One night I went to have dinner with the two of them, and after a while John suggested that I call up Joe and talk to him. John was an illustrious (even notorious) character. I think what I may have trusted the most was that John understood something about me, and his recommendation was an outgrowth of that. I had nothing to lose by going in for a session.

Now, you probably wouldn't ask your partner's lover for a reference to a therapist, or to anything for that matter. However, you might get the name of someone by some means that seems unusual. A synchronicity might be involved. In truth, references are a pretty good way to get started shopping around. Ask people you trust if they have heard of anyone, and ask what they heard.

The key fact is this: however you may be feeling, you're going to need to make an informed decision, you're going to need to trust that decision for a while (say, for three sessions, till you have a feeling for how things are going), and then you'll need to evaluate how you did. Even an informed decision is a roll of the dice, however there are common-sense ways you can skew the odds in your favor, which could be applied to any selection process for a healer or practitioner.

If you don't have a reference from a friend or another practitioner to work with, then open up the local community newspaper and see who is advertising. Pay attention to how you feel reading the ad and dialing the phone.

Is the person easy to reach? If you leave a message, do they call you back fairly soon? Do they answer your questions patiently? This is more than good business practice; therapists know that people often call them when in crisis, and they know that those first few minutes are a key time to cultivate trusting communication, and to offer a prospective client the chance to feel listened to and cared about.

When you pick someone you want to have a first meeting with, you might be inclined to tell them your whole story, which would be a good sign. But sometime during that first visit (or before), make sure you ask for a copy of their CV (*curriculum vitae*, a long-form resume that all professionals should have available). In my opinion, you're looking for two things on their CV — the first of which are educational and professional experiences that qualify them for the service that they are currently offering.

Second, I suggest you look for diversity of interests. When I read Joe's CV, it included therapy training in workshop format, educational experiences, teaching, educational consulting, plus some of his artistic and scientific endeavors. Among them was the fact that he's a musical composer, with some of his notable performances listed. The topic of his master's thesis was the magical powers associated with the shapes of musical instruments in indigenous cultures. This impressed me as intelligent and open-minded.

I think it's far preferable to work with someone who is excited about life, and who challenges themselves to grow and explore existence. That's the kind of example you want — and a therapist is very much an exemplar, not of a perfect person, but of an *alive* one. Such a person is more likely to relate to what you say and the unusual things you might want to do, and less likely to try to fit you into a box. The essence of therapy is to bring out the person you are inside, rather than have you be someone else.

Most people will want to know the person's credentials — you know, they went to Cornell or Harvard and have the following licenses, and that would be enough. However, whatever their credentials, I suggest you go with your feelings. Do they take an active interest in you and your life? Can you feel their empathy? What does your intuition tell you? These things are FAR more important than how many merit badges they have.

Let's make a distinction between the academic/institutional approach and the folk approach to therapy. To the extent that therapy exists these days, much of it takes the academic/institutional approach — coming with the need to make a diagnosis, for example. Psychologists and social workers have this cryptic thing called DSM-IV, which supposedly lists everything that can possibly go wrong with a person's mind. As the patient, you would need to fit one of those categories; your diagnosis gets a little code, and that code is used to collect insurance (for example, social anxiety disorder is DSM-IV 300.23). Some people also find it comforting to know what's 'wrong' with them, at least in the theory of a psychologist.

Many practitioners who use the diagnosis model will either prescribe mood-altering drugs, or refer you to someone who will. I find it stunning, shocking and unbelievable that so many millions of people you see on the street are taking 'anti-depressants'. In my opinion, mood-altering prescription medications are only necessary in rare cases, not for everyday depression or anxiety. There is considerable evidence that they make matters worse. And they are prescribed without actual scientific data (for example, indicating exactly what 'chemical imbalance' is being treated). The purported goal of this kind of therapy is to cure the patient.

Alternately, the folk art of therapy has a more down-to-earth approach. The therapy room is a place of refuge or sanctuary. That's how it should feel when you sit down there — like a place off to the side of existence, protected from the demands of the world, and a place where you want to come back. If after the first session you feel better about your life and you want to come back, that's a good sign. Then see how you feel after the second session. If things go well for a month or so, give the person a chance and reassess in six months. Remember that there may be ups and downs in your attitude toward the work — but that's not a given.

In this approach, the therapist is a witness and mentor. They maintain a loving presence, though one that's not attached to your outcome. This is the crucial difference between a friend (or lover) and a therapist: someone you're involved with personally may have a diversity of biases and attachments to you; your therapist will see you more objectively, and when you walk out the door you're free to live your life — and come back — without worrying about their opinion of you.

One goal of this kind of therapy is accelerated maturation. It's also about learning about yourself through an unusual kind of relationship that can become a model for other experiences. *Your therapist should be the most supportive person in your life. This will teach you what a supportive person is.*

There's a deeper layer, though. I believe that ultimately, therapy is about the cultivation of trust. That is the thing learned; the missing experience had. This is saying a lot on a planet where trust is the rarest human element, and the thing most often abused when it's found.

There is an idea going around that 'talk therapy' is superficial, and can only go so far, particularly compared to 'energy work'. Without commenting on 'energy work', I will say this: trust is a core issue in life. Our cynical and self-judgmental attitudes are usually based on lack of trust, and this is almost always crippling.

The therapy relationship becomes the vehicle for that experience of learning trust, not in theory but in actual practice. That takes time, though it will proceed from a point of contact. That point of contact leads to the conscious observation that your trust in someone is growing, that it exists at all, or that some benefit will come from it. The relationship becomes an active demonstration that trust really is possible. One of the deepest learning experiences of therapy is looking for that trust in other relationships — and if you discover it's not there, taking that fact to heart.

Trust leads to the ability to be vulnerable in a conscious and sincere way. Vulnerability without trust can have some catastrophic results. Most people struggle with trust and vulnerability. The therapy relationship becomes a place to experience those things that were largely missing, and to open up to the missing experiences, carrying what you learn over into other relationships. It's pretty powerful contrast if you sit in your therapist's office and have an intelligent conversation about your life, then you go home and feel like you cannot say a word to your partner about anything you talked about.

The best therapists have the flavor of part sage mentor and part peer. They become the authority in our lives which we aspire to be, and then get busy being. They can help supplant the negative or unsupportive influences of parents, whose authority we also aspired to, but who sometimes or often betrayed our trust. Your therapist must be someone who teaches you to respect and take care of yourself — by example, and through the relationship.

Your insurance, if you have any, may not pay for the person you find who takes this approach. That means you will have to pay for it yourself, something I've always thought was worth the expense even when I could barely afford food and rent. Therapy is the place you will begin to heal your pain, let go of the past and access your deepest potential. Once you find someone you're willing to do that with, I suggest you not put a price on it. Do what you have to do to earn the money and write the check every week. You may discover that makes the experience all the more meaningful to you.

Beyond the Veil: The Minor Planets in Astrology

The Mountain Astrologer
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[**PDF** includes charts]

When Stephen Colbert took the podium at the White House Correspondents Association Dinner at 10:30 p.m. on April 29, 2006, nobody was expecting an ambush. At most, people familiar with Colbert, whose program on Comedy Central had begun just six months earlier, figured that a pretty good comedy routine was coming. Colbert is funny, but at that time most people had not figured out that he's also serious, which in part accounts for why he was invited to speak. His act involves playing the role of a bombastic, egotistical "conservative" commentator — a fact that apparently got past the censors.

What the audience witnessed was a searing takedown of both President George W. Bush and his administration and the press and then the hapless public, broadcast nationally on live television. It was more akin to a coup d'état than satire. Addressing the press, he said: "Really, what incentive do these people [in the administration] have to answer your questions, after all? I mean, nothing satisfies you. Everybody asks for personnel changes. So, the White House has personnel changes. And then you write, 'Oh, they're just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.' First of all, that is a terrible metaphor. This administration is not sinking. This administration is soaring! If

anything, they are rearranging the deck chairs on the Hindenburg.”

From that moment on, any hope that Bush had of being taken seriously seemed to evaporate. As he listened to Colbert dismantle him, Bush looked like he wanted to crawl under the table, but one of his former aides said he had the expression that he was ready to blow a gasket.

At a recent astrology conference, I was in Richard Tarnas’s “Astrology of the Comic Genius” intensive, where we watched the video of Colbert’s presentation, studying his natal chart. I had just one thought: Where was Mercury when Colbert made his speech? On the spot I looked up the data and cast the chart. (See Chart 1, page 24.)

I had to blink my eyes a few times because I could not believe what I was seeing. I double-checked my data. Mercury was partile conjunct Eris () — Eris, the goddess we remember from Greek mythology only because she rolled the apple of discord into the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, leading to the beauty pageant of the goddesses. The apple was inscribed, “To the Fairest,” and with everyone’s full cooperation, its arrival incited a bonfire of the vanities that we still talk about today. This was a cleverly designed sneak attack, made of pure cunning. The implications were profound, among them the Trojan War.

Colbert’s apple of discord, slyly rolled into a room full of the most prominent members of American society, was more of a peace protest, lambasting the president for his lies about weapons of mass destruction, his tax cuts for the rich, and his overall incompetence. It was a knockout punch, and Mercury was in prime form that night, conjunct a newly discovered, about-to-be-named body that hardly anyone had heard of yet. Adding a touch of elegance to the chart, the Mercury–Eris conjunction was square asteroid Pallas Athene in Capricorn, illustrating this direct challenge to the political establishment.

This event does not define Eris for us, but is what I would call a proving moment: a moment when a planet's themes emerge in a visceral way. Proving is a homeopathic term, meaning to test a remedy, demonstrating some of its effects. I think of a proving moment as (borrowing language from Geoffrey Cornelius) a spontaneous eruption of symbolism.

The meaning of a new body does not end there — indeed, many times that's where it begins. Any minor planet, once discovered, enters a phase of what Erminie Lantero, referring to Chiron, described as "continuing discovery" (in her book, *The Continuing Discovery of Chiron*). Often the themes emerge when we're least expecting them to — or when we spot some-thing in the world and cast a chart to see what's going on. Here, we had an Eris-like event of historic proportions in the year that Eris made her big splash, just four months after Colbert's infiltration of such an important event.

When deciphering minor planets, synchronicities (sometimes bold, other times subtle) count for a lot. If you want to understand what the minor planets are saying, the best thing you can do is to look and listen and collect information: Pay attention to which of them are prominent in the charts of salient world events, or which ones turn up in charts like the New Moon or Full Moon. Then, see what develops. Look for the minor planets' known themes mov-ing through the news and the lives of your clients. Note the patterns. Listen for their hoofbeats in the street.

The Shape of Consciousness

When the age of planetary discovery began with the sighting of Uranus in 1781, we were not just on the brink of a radically changing solar system. We were on the edge of a world about to go through more upheaval, progress, and conflict than anyone (except maybe Nostradamus) could have predicted. The premise of astrology is that the shape of the solar system reflects both the state of the world and the shape of consciousness. With the

discovery of Uranus, the time honored container of Saturn had been breached, and the age of science and industry had begun.

Interestingly, the second-ever planetary discovery, on January 1, 1801, was of a minor planet, though it was not called that: Ceres (first described as a comet, then a planet, then an "asteroid") is now designated minor planet 1, written (1) Ceres. Four more asteroids were discovered between that time and the discovery of Neptune in 1846. (Astraea, the fifth asteroid, was discovered just one year before Neptune was, after a 38-year gap in discoveries.)

Gradually, the two gas giants, Uranus and Neptune, were assimilated into astrology. The asteroids — most of them named after goddesses — fell by the wayside for a long time, though they finally started to get attention in the 1970s when ephemerides and computer programs became more commonly available and gender equality became a cultural theme.

One difference between the traditional and the modern planets is that you can see the traditional planets with the naked eye. I asked Rob Hand about this recently, and he said that the zodiac and the traditional planets "deal with normal consciousness. An invisible planet requires the expansion of consciousness in order to be seen. They cannot be seen by the normal senses, and that is very important." As we discover and delineate these bodies, imagine that we are gradually expanding our awareness into the invisible, non-normal realms.

In a sense, we are going beyond the veil of the senses and the usual shape of consciousness. This lack of tangibility may, at least partly, account for why the minor planets tend to be so controversial. And given how many minor planets there are, we are getting the hint that there is a lot going on beyond the veil — a very busy universe beyond the limits of the normal senses.

Speaking of controversy, that's one way to describe Chiron's relationship to astrology. Chiron was discovered in 1977, sparking the imagination of some astrologers and the skepticism of others.

Books came out in rapid succession, and a conscious effort was made by a small group of astrologers to research Chiron's meaning and integrate it into their work.

Others felt that it was too small, too new, or too poorly defined to be meaningful. Gradually, it has come into more common use — in a sense, leading the astrological field from behind. By this I mean that, while Chiron itself was not accepted by many astrologers, the ideas about Chiron gradually infiltrated astrological thinking: using astrology as a healing art; holistic consciousness; and a spiritual purpose to the work that many practitioners had missed along the way.

Chiron was designated (2060) Chiron, being the 2,060th object in the catalogue. At the time, all of these objects were asteroids, including those in the main belt between Mars and Jupiter and some called Trojans that orbit with Jupiter. Chiron was a salient discovery because it didn't fit any previously known category of asteroid (though, due to its elongated orbit, it was similar to (944) Hidalgo, discovered much closer to the Sun in 1920).

Chiron crossed the orbit of Saturn and went out nearly to Uranus. Its name, a tribute to the wise (and nearly forgotten) centaur of ancient Greek myth, corresponded to its hybrid quality: It seemed to be part-asteroid, part-planet, and part-comet. (It is now considered a very massive comet nucleus.) Its discoverer, Charles Kowal, gave Chiron its first keyword when he said of his discovery, "This thing is a maverick." (I have learned from this work with new discoveries that astronomers are often beautifully intuitive contributors to astrology.)

In a sense, with the minor planets, we are always in maverick territory. It's a bit of a wilderness, and to work with the minor planets it really helps if you enjoy, or at least acclimate yourself to, unfamiliar psychological and mythological material. (Note: You can look up the positions of all of the points referenced in this article — and sort them many different ways — on a free Web site written by my friend [Tracy Delaney in Wales](#).)

Enter QB1, the Kuiper Belt, and Pholus

Let's skip ahead a few years to the next two major discoveries, both of which happened in the watershed year of 1992. A distant point was discovered and given the provisional name 1992 QB1 and eventually, when its orbit was confirmed, catalogue number 15760.

The number of known minor planets had increased nearly eightfold in just 15 years. The object 1992 QB1 was a significant discovery because it was the first planet found orbiting our Sun beyond Pluto. This in turn confirmed the existence of the Kuiper Belt, which up until that time was only speculative. Yet, this discovery — of both an object beyond Pluto and a new region of the solar system — went unnoticed by most astrologers. Rapid discovery of planets in the Kuiper Belt followed QB1, including a whole class whose name is a clever pun on QB1: the "cubewanos" (Q-B-1-oh).

There are two main populations in the Kuiper Belt: the cubewanos (or classical Kuiper Belt objects, with orbits of about 300 years) and the plutinos (with orbits of around 250 years, similar to that of Pluto). In the naming tradition of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), plutinos are given names of underworld deities, while cubewanos are usually named after deities associated with creation and resurrection.

Jane X. Luu, 1992 QB1's principal discoverer, has so far opted not to give it a mythologically based name. Yet, a whole class of minor planets is now named for QB1 (the cubewanos), and as a result, it seems likely that QB1 will always be called that.

The same year, a small, orbit-crossing object was discovered and eventually named Pholus, after another of the wise (rather than the violent) centaurs. Pholus cycles around the Sun in 92 years,

extending past Pluto at the far end of its elongated orbit. This was the discovery that led to the designation of the Centaur class of minor planets, because now there were two of them.

Chiron had received a lot of attention from astrologers in the years following its discovery; however, Pholus went nearly unnoticed, as did the 1993 discovery of the third Centaur, Nessus (which circles the Sun in 122 years). This led the way to the discoveries of many more Centaurs: small, orbit-crossing bodies whose distances from the Sun are generally outside that of Jupiter.

Pholus got catalogue number 5145, and its discovery was followed by a sequence of rapid sightings of other minor planets (a property that aligns with its main energetic quality, which we'll come to in a moment).

In 2000, Varuna was discovered orbiting in the Kuiper Belt; this was considered such a significant event that the new body was given a special place in the minor planet catalogue — number 20,000. Varuna is similar to 1992 QB1, being located beyond Pluto, with an orbit of 281 years (it is classified as a cubewano). By 2002, Quaoar was discovered, also in the Kuiper Belt (with a 285-year orbit), and it was considered such a significant discovery that it was also given an honorary minor planet number — 50,000. It, too, is a cubewano. Note that the discovery rate had by this time reached an exponential pace, doubling every few years.

Just a year later, in 2003, the same team that had found Quaoar discovered Sedna. This was one of the strangest objects ever identified, having an orbital period of about 11,400 years. It was given minor planet number 90,377 and was named for an Inuit goddess living deep beneath the Arctic Ocean — calling attention to the melting ice caps. Sedna moves so slowly that, in just two orbits around the Sun, we experience nearly a full precession of the equinoxes.

Let's consider the tally up to this point. In the 25 years between the discovery of Chiron and the discovery of Sedna, 88,317 objects orbiting our Sun were added to the minor planet catalogue — an increase of nearly 43-fold. As of this writing, there are more than 310,000 objects with precisely confirmed orbits around the Sun (and thus with catalogue numbers, making them eligible for naming) and as many discovered objects with orbits awaiting confirmation. Not long ago, there were nine "planets." Today, there are nearly three-quarters of a million objects known to be buzzing around our Sun. Is anybody telling schoolchildren about this? And more germane to our topic, is anyone telling astrologers?

Considering Rob Hand's comment about how the invisible planets require an expansion of consciousness, we are getting a clear message from the cosmos about the imminent necessity of doing just that. The thing is, most of these points are not written about in books and are only rarely mentioned in articles, so we have to expand our consciousness on our own, with an actual stretch. There are so many of these bodies that a listing of meanings by sign, house, and aspect would fill a library — though it's not even possible to sum them up that way. Astrologers who use these planets have to develop new methods of research, delineation, and approaches to organize putting them to work in a meaningful way.

The Discovery of Eris

Eris, discovered in 2005 and named in 2006, was the public relations watershed for the minor planets. The goddess of chaos and discord seemed to be commenting on the state of planetary anarchy in the years that preceded her discovery.

Numerous objects in the Kuiper Belt had already been discovered; however, since Eris was originally believed to be larger than Pluto, it precipitated a number of dramatic events. It suddenly called attention to the existence of the minor planets in

a way that finally reached the public. Most notably, the class “dwarf planet” was created, its first three members being Ceres, Pluto, and Eris. For the first time, astronomers had defined what a planet is. By their nascent definition, approved late in the IAU conference in Prague in August 2006, there would be just eight planets (the nine, minus Pluto). Everything else orbiting our Sun would be some form of minor planet (unless, presumably, something bigger than Mercury was discovered).

Pluto was reclassified as (134340) Pluto and took its place in the minor planet catalogue. (For a while, astronomers at the Minor Planet Center had been reserving number 10,000 for Pluto; however, after a heated debate, that distinction went to a main belt asteroid called Myriostos, meaning “ten-thousandth.”)

There’s no argument that Pluto is a minor planet in the astronomical sense of the word, though Eris discoverer Mike Brown has described Pluto as a “cultural planet” —something regarded (and loved) as a planet by society, despite what it may be, astronomically. Now it has a minor planet number just like Pallas, Juno, or Chiron. Yet, no astrologer has any less reverence for Pluto as a result. Which leads to a question: What about all the other planets in Pluto’s class? It would seem that we’ve all been tricked by a cosmic joke into taking seriously a minor planet, not knowing what it was, even if we didn’t believe in all that “driveway gravel” anyway.

We are in a remarkable age of planetary discovery, comparable to nothing that has come before. It’s at once alluring and daunting to have this many planets to work with. Unlike previous generations of astrologers (and some contemporary ones) who might have tossed aside asteroids just because they’re asteroids, we now have many planets available to work with in the class of Pluto and Chiron, both of which have been demonstrated to be significant influences in astrology.

When pressed to explain why they don’t use the minor planets, most astrologers have admitted to me that their reluctance stems

from there being too many to figure out a way into the matrix. How do you make sense of them all? Where do you begin? There are so many! How do you memorize their meanings? Once you've accepted that your natal chart is not going to be the same thing you studied as a teenager or young adult, and that your concept of yourself will change as a result, then comes the adventure.

Remember, you didn't learn all the traditional planets at once. You learned them from a combination of study and experience. You will learn the minor planets the same way, one at a time or in small groups. Once you tune into one of these points, based on affinity or because it has shown up a few times in your chart, you can watch its process develop before your eyes. As I suggested earlier, there are what I call "proving moments" — in the homeopathic sense of the word "proving," where the theme and purpose of a remedy are demonstrated through direct experience. This is not a scientific process but rather one of careful observation, mixed with theorizing and some creative imagination.

In applying the minor planets to any situation, there are generally two ways to go: One is to select points that follow a particular theme and work from there. The other way is to sort the planets onto a 90-degree dial and look for which of them are making aspects to sensitive points in a chart you're working with. In terms of delineation, formal study of the planet and its mythology is helpful. Yet, each minor planet I work with seems to have its moments of spontaneous eruption of symbolism, wherein the nature of the archetype manifests.

The thing to remember about archetypes is that they are complex and multifaceted. Though the small planets are often viewed in a reductionist way (we are told that they grant specificity to readings, allegedly having narrow meanings), they can have presentations as complex as any of the major planets. Any one proving moment can affirm past theories or offer something new, though it's important to work in the spirit of

continuing discovery and to keep an open mind going into the future.

Working with proving moments is just one of the techniques used to decipher newly discovered planets. Many other methods are used, including studying the orbital plot, reading the discovery chart (in effect, the natal chart of the new body), studying the mythology, and observing the placement of the planet in people who have accomplished unusual things.

Events in the era of the discovery are also significant. For example, Chiron arrived in the mid 1970s, during a time when the Human Potential Movement was going strong; this included therapy methods, the rising popularity of holistic centers like the Esalen Institute, courses such as EST, and many other consciousness-raising projects. In practice, Chiron seems to be a patron saint of this kind of personal growth work, whether as part of an organized program or not.

It's also interesting that Chiron's first pre-discovery photo was taken in 1895, the year that D. D. Palmer discovered (or rediscovered) the medical art of chiropractic — named for Chiron — which is often associated with the gift of hands-on healing.

The Cry of the Poor

One proving moment for the Centaur planet Hylonome emerged during the funeral of Yasser Arafat. I had just arrived in Paris in the autumn of 2004, and soon after, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was brought in to have French doctors treat a disease that his Palestinian doctors did not understand. In Europe, this turn of events was considered monumental, and BBC World Service was on the story around the clock.

On November 11, Arafat died, and the French held a solemn funeral service at a military airport, with rites appropriate for a head of state. This alone was astounding — to have seen Arafat's position go from Arab terrorist to world leader.

The next day, his body was flown from Paris, first to Cairo for full military honors and then taken by military transport helicopter to the Palestinian Territory. BBC World was covering the events live, and in the darkening afternoon of Thursday, November 12, the Egyptian helicopters arrived in Ramallah, where tens of thousands of men filled a massive plaza, many of them firing their weapons into the air, awaiting their leader's homecoming. Gradually, the crowds parted as the helicopters touched the ground. It was a biblical scene, playing out before the eyes of the world.

As I watched this on TV, I was watching a real-time chart animation go by in Io Sprite (this program is open on my desktop at all times). The drama was unfolding at the moment of the Scorpio New Moon, just as the Sun and Moon formed a conjunction in the sign most often associated with death and evolutionary transitions. (See Chart 2, below.) When live coverage of Arafat's arrival began, the New Moon was in the 8th house, and as the Moon and Sun touched the horizon, their conjunction was exact. Anyone with a vague sense of symbolism could feel the momentousness of this. It was one of those astonishing moments of astrology.

As if this were not enough, Mars had just arrived in Scorpio and was about to touch the South Node, a fitting image of a fallen warrior, with the eerie reminder (coming from the South Node) that it was time to let go of some of the violence that had surrounded Arafat's life.

Yet, the Sun and Moon were conjunct a Centaur planet: Hylonome, named for a female centaur who impaled herself on the same spear that killed her husband. Discovered in 1995 (with an orbital period of 126 years), Hylonome has been connected by Centaur specialists to themes of grief and the process of working through grief. This is a theme endemic in the Centaurs, but especially pronounced with Hylonome. As the New Moon took shape conjunct Hylonome in Scorpio, we were witnessing one of

the most vibrant public outpourings of grief since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, almost a decade earlier.

Juan Revilla, a research astrologer in Costa Rica, is known to nearly any-one who studies the Centaurs seriously. Revilla's delineation for Hylonome goes beyond the "processing grief" group of ideas and includes the phrase, "the cry of the poor." This was being boldly demonstrated in Arafat's spontaneous funeral rite (more like the roar of the poor, plus the sound of celebratory gunfire). Posted to his Web site long before this event, Revilla's other key phrases for Hylonome include death song, war song, heroism, sacrifice, eternal youth, longing for Paradise, the sacrificial victim, tragic beauty, redemption, and political and religious messianism — all terms that aptly describe Arafat. (Note: Revilla uses primarily the orbital elements to delineate a new discovery, and he avoids mythological references.)

An astrologer is not likely to see all of the delineations above in the life of any one client, though Hylonome also has subtler, personal manifestations. For example, if the theme of needless sacrifice emerges in the life of a client, especially a situation where they are being asked to sacrifice their life in some way, check the natal position, transits, and synastry of Hylonome for more information. Investigate when someone has been widowed; look for it in murder-suicide situations or in any situation that feels like Sati, the Indian ritual where the wife or wives die on the funeral pyre of their husband.

Once you work with a new point enough times, if you're listening, it will begin to speak to you. Though you may not cast it into every chart, or indeed may use the point only rarely, you can form a relationship that will be there when you need it.

Borasisi: The Power of Lies

On March 4, 2011, there was a New Moon in Pisces conjunct a Kuiper Belt object called Borasisi (a cubewano). This point was sighted in 1999 by three veteran discoverers, including Jane X. Luu, who found 1992 QB1 and is also credited with proving the

existence of the Kuiper Belt itself. The discoverers gave their new planet an unusual name, taken not from mythology but rather from the novel, *Cat's Cradle*, by Kurt Vonnegut. Borasisi is the name of the Sun in the novel's religion, called Bokononism.

I had not worked with Borasisi carefully until that time, and I thought that, with a New Moon conjunct this point, I would explore some of the themes I had seen coalescing around Borasisi over the years. To do this, I revisited *Cat's Cradle*, a story that Vonnegut conceived when he was working in public relations at General Electric. In the novel, Vonnegut contrasts the lies of religion (you will go to heaven when you die) with the lies of science (toxic chemicals are safe), proposing that the lies of science are much more devastating.

He knew this as a GE spokesman whose job was to lie to the public about the dangers of GE's products, something that GE does copiously. At the time (in the 1950s), for example, GE was aware of the dangers of its equipment containing highly toxic, nearly indestructible PCB fluid — a chemical that disrupts hormones, induces cancer, and causes countless other harmful effects. Vonnegut said in an interview that, when writing *Cat's Cradle*, he was also concerned about nuclear weapons and atomic power, both of which GE was involved with as an industry leader.

Vonnegut borrowed the concept of "Ice 9" in *Cat's Cradle* as a metaphor for things that can completely destroy the world. I say "borrowed" because Ice 9 was a concept invented by another GE public relations man years earlier to impress science fiction author H. G. Wells when he came to visit GE's labs in Schenectady, New York (Wells never used the idea). Ice 9 is a (fictional) form of water that is solid and stable at room temperature. Ice 9 crystals will impart their pattern to any water, so that a grain of the stuff dropped in a bathtub will turn the whole thing to a block of Ice 9. This will also work in the ocean; if any of the stuff gets in the ocean, the entire planet would freeze.

The lies of science, as described in *Cat's Cradle*, would have you believe that Ice 9 is perfectly safe and that nothing can go wrong — just like the PR surrounding PCBs or nuclear power plants. But then, there is the human factor: hubris, the inability to handle power, coupled with self-deception. In our personal lives, I relate Borasisi to the lies that we believe even when we know better, including the biggest ones coming out of industry and government.

Though our lives may be much smaller than the nuclear crisis, we have our role in that we can choose whether to accept what is said to us. No matter what we may have believed, we ultimately bear the brunt of the problem when things go wrong.

One week to the day after the Borasisi New Moon in Pisces, there was an earthquake and tsunami near Fukushima, Japan. This event overwhelmed a number of nuclear power plants, cutting them off from the power grid and thus from the energy necessary to keep their reactors cool. The world watched in horror as reactors at the facility exploded, one after the other. Everyone knew that tens of thousands of tons of spent fuel were on site and that engineers were having trouble keeping this cool as well. No matter how "safe" nuclear power was presumed to be, the world had been pushed over the brink of nuclear disaster — and the nuclear equipment involved had been manufactured by none other than GE.

Nobody who studies astrology missed the fact that this happened on the day that Uranus, the namesake of the uranium that is used in nuclear power plants, changed signs from Pisces to Aries. Yet, few people were aware that there had been a lunation with a theme so specific to the event just one week before.

Borasisi deals with themes of deception coming from both religion and science — or, you might say, the religion of science. Those familiar with the nuclear power industry are accustomed to its cult-like quality and its casual, habitual use of deception as a means of convincing the public that it is safe. Obviously, this is

based on belief rather than fact. The world had already watched in horror in 1986 as the Chernobyl reactor exploded and spewed radiation around the globe.

Prior accidents at the Fermi nuclear plant in Detroit (1966) and at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania (1979), two extremely close calls, had served as warnings. The belief that nuclear power is safe is merely that: a belief, based on deception and disinformation —precisely what Vonnegut was getting at in *Cat's Cradle*, and a theme that manifested in a rather stark historic way in the world shortly after a lunation involving this point. Borasisi is a small planet with a big message, particularly in our world that is in many ways run by the public relations industry.

You might put this planet to work any time you're studying a person or a situation where deceiving the public, and moreover the moral questions associated with that deception, are themes. Check Borasisi any time belief seems to trump the known facts or where self-delusion is an issue, whether the larger topic is religion, politics, corporate deception, or something novel that you've never thought of.

Eris and the Centaurs: The Tucson Shootings

When a major world event happens, I cast the chart and look for which minor planets are prominent. I use the basic tests for prominence — for example, if the point is angular or if it's making a conjunction, square, or opposition to the Sun, Moon, or a planet that thematically factors into the situation. When the Tucson shootings happened in early 2011, the exact time of the incident was released by authorities, and I cast the chart. (See Chart 3, facing page.)

At the moment of the shootings (which happened rapidly), Pholus (3) was conjunct the Midheaven within less than one degree. Pholus, the second-discovered Centaur, has among its themes the runaway reaction or the uncontrolled release of energy. It is a powerful precipitator. Where Pholus is involved, things proceed

rapidly — unlike with his cousin Chiron. German minor planet specialist Robert von Heeren described Pholus as the “small cause with the big effect.” Pholus is currently a long-term visitor to Sagittarius, a fiery, reactive sign.

Jared Lee Loughner’s walking up to a crowd of peaceful people and opening fire with a semi-automatic handgun had the mark of Pholus in the worst sense of the concept. The crowd included a prominent congresswoman, U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, with whom he was obsessed; one theme of Pholus is how we deal with famous people when we encounter them personally. Pholus was on the cusp of the 10th, a house associated with government and authority.

I then checked the personal astrology of those involved. The natal charts for Giffords and Loughner (both set for noon) in many ways seem to be the same chart. The first thing I noticed is that both have the Sun conjunct Nessus (7), the third Centaur, discovered in 1993. Nessus is about cyclical events; it can represent boomerang-like cycles that come back around to their point of origin, sometimes after a long sequence of developments. It has that karmic feeling of something coming home to roost or coming to a halt (summarized by Melanie Reinhart as “the buck stops here”).

Loughner has the Sun conjunct Nessus within one degree in Virgo (see Chart 4, below). Giffords has the Sun conjunct Nessus within 1.5 degrees in Gemini (Chart 5, below). Both conjunctions are in Mercury-ruled signs, and both are tightly square one another. Loughner has the Moon and the South Node close to Sun–Nessus: He was born within hours of a solar eclipse conjunct Nessus.

It’s events like this that give Nessus a bad reputation. Aside from indicating a similarity between Giffords and Loughner — that their lives involve playing out a similar pattern — Nessus is an excellent diagnostic tool in many other kinds of cases, particularly those involving sexual infidelity or sexually transmitted diseases, or where there is a revenge plot. Negative, violent, and

inappropriate sexual fixations are included under the subject area covered by Nessus, which we see demonstrated in Loughner's documented long-term obsession with Giffords.

Yet, there is a more striking similarity between the two charts: Both have a nearly identical pattern in which Mars, Chiron, and Eris appear in the cardinal signs, superimposed on one another. All three of these bodies are involved with warfare. Mars, of course, is the god of war. He represents energy, desire, passion, and aggression. It is not surprising to see Mars prominent in charts associated with a shooting and mass murder. Mars energy will have to be released or expressed one way or another, usually by direct aggression. (Eris, the sister of Mars, was more the type to operate through subterfuge.)

As an astrological factor, Chiron is about raising awareness, the healing journey, injury that focuses healing and growth, "shamanic" wounding, warrior-like qualities (spiritual or otherwise), and mentorship. Chiron typically has a crisis around its placement, which either will be associated with gathering strength and power when it's processed consciously, or will create a spiraling-down effect, a descent into futility when it is ignored.

Dale O'Brien takes this interpretation of Chiron to a deeper level, explaining that, in a situation like this, Chiron points to a holistic level of reality. He wrote to me in a recent e-mail:

Astrological Chiron corresponds to the remarkable multifaceted mythic centaur Chiron's story, which in turn corresponds to indigenous stories of shamanism. In a shamanic perception of the world, everyone and everything is interrelated. For instance, when violence befalls a member of the community, that person is not seen as victim, but rather as playing a role for all in the community. The perpetrator of the violence, similarly, was seen as a troubled soul, acting out something disturbing members of the community.

In other words, Chiron's presence describes this as a collective event, rather than an individual one. Eris (which almost everyone alive has in Aries) speaks to what I call the postmodern identity crisis. Eris vividly describes the alienation that many people feel, as well as the idea that we are searching for who we are, often to the point of a serious struggle and often in ways that push people to extremes. T

his can be inflamed by self-destructive actions designed to provoke chaos in the environment; an initiated inner chaos that can spread to the environment; a disowned feminine side in men that can lead to resentment in women; and an alienated feminine side in women that can become extremely toxic. When Eris was named in 2006, she upset the known order of the solar system, unseated Pluto as a planet, and helped to create the castaway class of "dwarf planets."

In the charts of both Loughner and Giffords, these three points (Mars, Chiron, and Eris) are in a similar aspect, superimposed over one another with remarkable precision in the signs Aries and Cancer.

In Loughner's natal chart, Mars is conjunct Eris in Aries. This is demonstrated by the chaos associated with his criminal acts of violence. In Aries, this is angry and aggressive and reveals how he struggles to focus his masculine energy, a crisis he projects onto women. Mars in Aries can lack confidence and could make up for it by doing macho things to help create the aura or sensation of masculinity. His Mars is retrograde, which tends to generate pent-up energy and inflame the insecurity associated with any tense Mars placement.

Loughner's Mars and Eris are square Chiron in Cancer. Chiron in Cancer can represent a sense of injury around the mother, one's feminine side, and this may, if not addressed, extend to all women. The square aspect between Mars and Chiron often manifests as an energy blockage — unless someone works to consciously integrate the square, in which case it will become a

building block of integrity. This is a setup prone to outbursts of aggression.

In Giffords' chart, we find Mars in Cancer conjunct Loughner's Chiron (within two degrees). Her Mars provokes one of his most vulnerable points: his injured feminine side. Giffords also has her Chiron in Aries tightly conjunct retrograde Mars in Loughner's chart, exact within a few arc minutes. Her Chiron is in a direct relationship to another one of Loughner's most sensitive points. Said simply, they both have a Mars–Chiron square, directly aligned, though with the signs reversed.

In Loughner's chart Mars is conjunct Eris, and in Giffords' chart Chiron is conjunct Eris. These aspect configurations match up like a map aligns with a satellite photo of the same territory. This tells us a few things, one of which is that these two people have an energetic connection. They also reflect one another in certain distinct ways, though they are working through the material differently. One thing they have in common is that Giffords, though a Democrat, has been a supporter of gun rights, and Loughner took advantage of those rights.

Commenting on the similarities between the charts of murder victims and those who commit the crime, Rob Hand explained in a recent conversation: "They both have violence present in their chart. One's a victim and one's a perpetrator. One acts out and the other gets the projection. They are not identical but they have that similar pattern. If you wish to use the word karmic, it's a karmic pattern. The only thing I object to is when people use this to blame the victim."

Were we analyzing these charts using only traditional planets, we would be looking at a Mars square Mars by synastry. When we notice shared influences such as Chiron or Eris, there is something in that pattern deeper than violence; we begin to see the causes and effects of violence.

When Loughner shot Giffords and others that day, we as a national community experienced a crisis about what to do with alienated individual anger. Stressful aspects involving Mars and Chiron (especially Chiron in Aries) indicate this kind of challenge, exacerbated when alienated Eris is involved.

I interpret these charts as speak-ing to the issue of violence between the genders — that is, this incident was an eruption of gender rage, something much larger than the individual rage that would be indicated by Mars alone. I also relate the pattern to the sense of injury that men and women feel from one another, as a cultural phenomenon as well as a personal one.

Slow-moving Chiron and Eris can manifest personally, but as we know from other outer planets, they will often describe a greater context. In this case, it looks like a cultural injury involving male rage at the power of women, sexual injury, and projection, which these charts soberly remind us that we need to address.

A Visit from Chiron

I would like to end with a non-astrological manifestation of one of the recent discoveries, which reveals another way that an archetype might express itself in consciousness.

Early in my career, I was working with a client on her Chiron return, an event that happens for the first time around age 50–51. She had no prior knowledge of Chiron. Our session focused on the rite of passage associated with this transit. We had just spent the better part of the evening discussing the effects of Chiron in her life, tracking her development through various passages that culminated with the Chiron return she was now experiencing.

At the end of the session, I handed my client a copy of the book, *Chiron and the Healing Journey*, by Melanie Reinhart. Holding the book in her hands and looking at the cover, she suddenly began

to cry. I sat with her and waited until she settled herself, and then asked her what was up. She told me this story.

A few years earlier, she had been called to Manhattan to tend to the last days' care of a dying friend. Late one night, she heard a horse galloping in the streets of the city. It seemed unusual for a horse to be moving so quickly along the streets — and so audibly that she could hear it inside a brownstone — but she didn't think much of it at the time, preoccupied as she was by the circumstances of her friend's illness.

The next night, she heard the hoof-beats of the same horse, only this time it was moving more slowly, at a trot.

On the third night, from where she was in the kitchen, she heard the horse slow to a stop very close to the apartment. She walked out to the main room and experienced a vision of what she described as a 40-foot-tall centaur — a creature that is half-human, half-horse — standing before her. The human part of the figure was bald and with-out clothing, and joined at the waist to the horse's body. She had no idea what she was looking at. While the creature did not seem malicious, she was struck by what she described as its awesome power, and was quite shaken at the sight of the huge, unworldly being standing in front of her. Her friend died that night.

She said the illustration on the cover of Melanie's book was unmistakably of this creature: Chiron. This completed something for her: She discovered the identity of the creature who had manifested while her friend was dying. For me, a different circle was complete: the knowledge that Chiron, and perhaps any planetary archetype, is alive and aware and can manifest in bold ways, whether there's an astrological basis for it or not.

Chart Data and Sources
(in order of appearance)

Colbert's White House Speech, April 29, 2006; 10:30 p.m. EDT; Washington, D.C., USA (38°N54', 77°W02'); news broadcast.

Arafat's Funeral Rite, November 12, 2004; 2:44:43 p.m. EET; Ramallah, West Bank, Pal-estine (32°N04', 34°E46'); news broadcast, with simultaneous computer-generated chart.

Tucson Shootings, January 8, 2011; 10:10 a.m. MST; Tucson, AZ, USA (32°N13', 110°W56'); news conference given by the county sheriff, who stated the exact time to reporters.

Jared Lee Loughner, September 10, 1988; time unknown (noon used); relocated to Tucson, as no birthplace is available; various Internet sources.

Gabrielle Giffords, June 8, 1970; time unknown (noon used); Tucson, AZ, USA; various Internet sources.

Mercury, Weaving the Story of Nessus

Planet Waves

June 6, 2014

[Link to original](#)

Those children who are beaten will in turn give beatings, those who are intimidated will be intimidating, those who are humiliated will impose humiliation, and those whose souls are murdered will murder. — Alice Miller

Nessus, the third centaur planet (discovered in 1993), recently entered water sign Pisces. This is a slow-moving point that can go so far from the Sun that it extends into the Kuiper Belt, crossing Pluto's orbit, and comes so close to the Sun that it goes inside the orbit of Saturn. Nessus is on its way to the Kuiper Belt now. After spending nine years in Aquarius, it will spend 19 years in Pisces, which is pretty rad even in the context of eccentric centaur orbits.

Nessus was last in Pisces during the turn of the 20th century, from around 1893 to 1911. And it was in Pisces during the American Revolutionary era, from 1772 to 1790 — spanning from just before the Declaration of Independence was signed to right after the Constitution was ratified. More about that in our Friday, July 4 edition.

Mercury has recently entered Cancer, a water sign, and it's doing something interesting there over the weekend — stationing retrograde in the very early degrees of that sign. In doing so, it's

spending 19 days in early Cancer, holding a long trine aspect to Nessus, making three exact contacts — on May 31, another while moving retrograde June 15 and a third while moving direct on July 13.

The retrograde will take Mercury back into Gemini for a while (between the last two contacts) and then Mercury will move forward and return to Cancer, making the last trine (on July 13). Mercury moves pretty fast most of the time, so this is an unusual phase of rapport between the planet of consciousness and communication and a minor planet associated with some of the darkest themes that humanity must address on its path of growth and healing.

Nessus moving into Pisces has shifted the story from the theoretical realm of Aquarius into the intuitive, emotional realm of a water sign. The shift also represents that between an earlier discussion among an elite group (in Aquarius) to a wider public (in Pisces). The material of Nessus is challenging to speak about, especially in Pisces, where it may be veiled or take some as-yet unrecognizable form. Speaking about it must come from a place of feeling so as to remain clear and accessible, yet not boil over into aggressive or defensive emoting. That calls for awareness and a safe space to process one's experiences.

To help clarify the themes of this unusual extended aspect pattern, I think it would be helpful to start with the myth of Nessus and see how its themes play out in the contemporary world — and the discussion that's currently happening in the wake of the recent murders in Isla Vista.

Nessus is a centaur. What all the centaur myths have in common is a creature who is half-man, half-horse; and in the story, the centaur dies. On one level, all of the centaur myths are actually the stories of the death of the centaurs. In mysticism, psychology and astrology, we can use these stories as healing tools and define death as the process of change. So you might look at the

death element as describing the transformation element of that particular centaur.

Notably, all of these myths were buried in the backs of libraries, most of them still in ancient Greek, until the first centaur, Chiron, was discovered in 1977. Then working together, astronomers, astrologers and translators recovered the stories and brought them into contemporary thought.

Thursday morning I picked up a 1958 book called [*Myths and Their Meanings*](#), and the first thing I checked the index for was Chiron — the most famous of the centaur stories. The writer, a respected author in his field, got the lineage of Chiron wrong. His parents were Kronos and the nymph Philyra, not "a mortal named Ixion and a cloud." (That is true of all the centaurs except Chiron and possibly Pholus, whose story may be an offshoot of the Chiron myth.)

The Nessus Myth: A Study in Revenge and Karma

Just about everyone is familiar with Heracles, the great hero of Greek mythology. He's more commonly known in his Roman form, as Hercules. He represents the human quest in the world, often associated with the work of men. He had his 12 labors, and was constantly accomplishing them on one mission or another. In our superhero-obsessed culture, Nessus is important because his myth is the story of the death of Heracles. In other words, Heracles, the great hero of Greek mythology, who starts as Chiron's student, meets his demise at the hands of Nessus.

This tells us a bit about the centaur myths: clearly, they are not well known, they're not common fables or fairy tales and not taught in school. Yet they are some of the most significant side streets of mythology, which is a map to human experience and psychology. This is exactly how the centaurs work in astrology. They are not commonly known but somehow their experiences are familiar to all of us.

Here is the story: Heracles and his wife Deianira are escaping from a bad situation — where Heracles had single-handedly killed perhaps a thousand centaurs in a full-on war. The two of them came to the river Evenus. There, Nessus was the self-appointed ferryman, who carried people across the river. Heracles threw his club and shield across and then forded the river, and Heacles negotiated a deal wherein Deianira was to be carried across the river by the centaur Nessus. There are several versions of the story. In one version, the fee that Nessus negotiates with Heracles is the privilege of carrying his wife across the river.

Here is where the story gets blurry, so for clarity I will quote the original translation, by J. G. Frazer: "So Hercules crossed the river by himself, but on being asked to pay the fare he entrusted Deianira to Nessus to carry over. But he, in ferrying her across, attempted to violate her."

There is one other significant point. In one telling of the story, Heracles' marriage to Deianira was based on an arrangement with her dead brother. It's possible that Heracles passed Deianira to Nessus, knowing he would abduct her, thereby getting out of his marriage. I say this because we know Heracles knew all he needed to know about centaurs. In addition to having been mentored by Chiron, he had just waged war on the entire race of centaurs, and knew their reputation as rapists and murderers.

Centaur in the Ixion line (as Nessus was) are almost all portrayed as rapists. Heracles has just left the scene of his war against the centaurs, so he knows who he is dealing with. Deianira, meanwhile, is portrayed as a hapless victim of circumstance. But we know something from her name: its etymology translates to "destroyer of men."

Seeing Nessus "attempt to violate" Deianira, Heracles shot Nessus in the heart with an arrow. The arrow was poisoned with the blood of the Hydra, whom Heracles had killed in an earlier scenario. That poison blood is how Heracles had just killed a thousand centaurs. Its also the poison that killed Pholus, and it's

what was on the arrow that inadvertently hit Chiron. (Those scenes unfold just prior to this one; the myths of Chiron, Pholus and Nessus are intertwined and all involve Heracles.)

The Hydra's blood was deadly, and Nessus was poisoned by the arrow. As he lay dying, the centaur gave to Deianira a vial of his toxic blood, or a mix of blood and semen (this is ambiguous in the versions and translations), and tells her that it's a fidelity potion. He says she can use it on Heracles and it will ensure that he'll remain faithful to her. Whatever happened between Nessus and Deianira, she trusts him enough to believe that this vial really contains a fidelity potion. In reality, he turns her into an unwitting contract murderer of her own husband — once again, hapless.

When she suspects that she might have a reason to use the potion, she spreads it on a tunic which she gives to Heracles to take to a tournament. After he had gone, some of the liquid fell on the ground and it frothed as the sunlight warmed it. Realizing it was toxic, she sent a messenger to warn Heracles, but the messenger arrived too late; the poison was taking hold.

"After killing 12 immaculate bulls as a sacrifice to celebrating the spoils of battle," Melanie Reinhart wrote in [*To The Edge and Beyond*](#), "Heracles had already donned the tunic." As its poison ate into his flesh, he was in long agony, roaming the forest ripping trees out of the ground.

This fulfilled the prophecy of the Delphic Oracle, many years earlier, which said, "No man alive shall kill Heracles; a dead enemy shall be his downfall." I have also heard this translated to be "will be killed by the blood of a dead enemy," which has the flavor of one of those Delphic riddles. In this case it was two enemies — the Hydra and Nessus. Heracles, wanting a dignified death, returned to Olympus, where he asked to be burned on a funeral pyre — at which point he revealed the Delphic prophecy he had kept secret for years.

This myth raises more questions than it provides answers. Nessus would seem to be quite a conniver, but Heracles clearly should have known better than to hand his wife off to him. There are certain people who you know are just going to be trouble, and you avoid them — but he does not. In addition, Heracles was the mightiest of men, with divine powers — he could have carried his little lady across the river himself. But he did not. He passed her off — he passed the buck, as it were — to Nessus. And Nessus passes the buck right back to him — by way of his wife.

Stopping the Cycle of Abuse and Revenge

In this myth, we have a triangular situation between a man, a woman and a third entity. We have the theme of rape, and a question of whether there was a setup for that happening, or some nebulous form of consent, implied consent, payment or taking advantage of a situation. We have scenes of trusting untrustworthy people. We have a scenario where "bad blood" is passed on from one party to the next. All of these point to the theme of a cycle or chain reaction of abuse or revenge.

There are many contemporary themes in this myth. The bad blood could be seen as karma, it could be seen as the cycle of abuse, or it could be seen as a sexually transmitted infection (they may be related).

Questions of fidelity, ensuring fidelity and revenge for infidelity are as old as civilization. So too is the notion of a woman's body as property. Matters of consent, of taking sexual advantage of women, matters of sex as a toll, are all part of our contemporary culture.

All of this is soaking in a society that both practices and preaches ignorance around sex and seems to reward hypocrisy above all else. I would add that the use of sex in commerce, that is, turning sex into a commodity, is one of our most serious problems we face as a society — and nearly everyone buys into it.

The Nessus scenario reminds me of something called the Karpman drama triangle, which is where we get our main concept of codependency. The idea first appeared in a 1968 article called "[Fairy Tales and Script Drama Analysis](#)" by Dr. Stephen Karpman in *Transactional Analysis Bulletin*. The article sets up the familiar concept of a triangle between the persecutor, the victim and the rescuer. As Karpman says in his article, anyone can play any role at any time, adding, "There is no drama until there is a switch in roles."

This can happen when a victim decides not to be victimized anymore — and often becomes a persecutor. Or a rescuer is victimized, not understanding that this was part of the script. Often, Karpman says, people play multiple roles in the drama simultaneously. The drama in the Nessus myth involves many changes in roles. In the end, everyone plays out some form of persecutor, victim and rescuer. [As an aside, I must thank my 4th grade teacher at PS 207 in Brooklyn, Mrs. Ursula Fennely, for teaching our class that Greek myths are highly accurate descriptions of the psychology of our society. She knew what she was talking about.]

Where Nessus is at work as an astrological factor, you can look for a complex web of interrelation, a sequence of events where one thing leads to another but the pieces of the story don't necessarily seem connected. You may have to connect the dots and see the pattern for yourself.

Nessus has themes that feel like the return of karma that may have an extremely long trajectory, like a boomerang that takes the long way around the world. Yet actions have consequences, and causes have effects, and effects have causes. Once you notice those relationships, you can almost always discover the source. Nessus is a helpful diagnostic tool in handling situations with these themes of betrayal, deception, murder, sexual abuse and sexual infidelity.

It works just as well to reveal something about where and how we've been hurt in the past, and how we're likely to hurt others — and how we can heal that pattern and its resulting injuries. [Note, nearly all readers have Nessus in Taurus (1950s), in Gemini (1960s) or in Cancer (1970s). These dates are approximate and should be checked [against an ephemeris.](#)]

Yet in the current environment, especially the political one, Nessus seems to be reminding us of our need to stop the endless cycle of persecutor, victim and rescuer. As my Facebook correspondent Beverly Spicer put it, "Here in the West, we are stuck in the relative stagnation of unconscious behavior on a wild merry-go-round, riding first the horse of persecutor, then victim, then rescuer. But the carnival never stops. Real life begins when we say no to the ride on any of the horses."

I think what is not exactly transparent here is that from the political standpoint, claiming the right to be the victim is the time of reckoning and revenge. One gets to be next in line for recognition, compensatory damages, protective laws, assured privileges and maybe the punishment of the persecutor. From a spiritual or psychological standpoint, the Karpman drama triangle is invoked. Victims become persecutors, rescuers become victims, and the cycle continues — creating ever more casualties and injured people ready to persecute.

Another of my Facebook participants, Khai Macauley, a female-to-male transsexual (FTM), still in transition, wrote on my timeline Wednesday: "This can no longer be a question of fault and blame but what is possible and what you/I/we can create. Holding someone else accountable doesn't create anything but another hierarchy."

There has to be some concept of accountability or ownership, a new kind, because blame makes guilt and guilt makes attack. This is because attack is the projection of guilt. One way to describe the cycle ending is the end of projection of guilt. That is possible but it's tricky because the people on the new frontier,

newly outside the cycle they may have been caught in and weakened by, have to be really, really strong in their love and forgiveness — because there is a shit storm of guilt flying.

The most touching thing Khai wrote was, "I have been many things to my biological family, the worst of which is crazy, but crazy because I'm 'pretending' to be male? Too far. But this is not just a personal journey. I am finding many men feel this way. And they are contorting themselves to try to find inclusion within a culture that only holds space for them as perpetrators."

Mercury in Cancer, Stationing Trine Nessus

Mercury is now in Cancer, the sign of family, of feelings and of natural instincts. It's also in aspect to the Aries Point, which is like common ground shared by both the most personal and the widest collective issues. Mercury has been picking up on the themes of Nessus in Pisces, and they have been rippling out into society — in ways both helpful and grossly distorted.

Mercury has been direct through its week-plus of slow motion in Cancer, and now it's about to station retrograde. This represents a change in polarity for Mercury and it may represent the potential for a ceasefire in the ongoing projection of guilt. There is something deeply emotionally introspective about Mercury retrograde in Cancer, and this can manifest as honesty with oneself about personal accountability and ownership.

That ownership is not going to happen in a space of blame, of self or otherwise. It's going to happen in a trusting space, where the whole truth is welcome. We have much to reckon with, and the whole revelation of truth will take time.

We live in a society that does not stop waging war on others and often wages war on its own people. The men who are forced to do this, and everyone around them, carry many injuries associated with warfare. Nearly all of us have an experience of constant psychic or emotional violence through exposure to images of war.

Today, we are "celebrating" the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the invasion of Normandy — if you turn on the TV you will see scenes of the bloodiest battle in modern history.

To some extent we are all complicit, even if only through paying taxes, by refusing to speak up, or by acting directly in support of what we know are illegal military operations. This has been going on for so many years few people remember anything else. It's no surprise that the war has come home.

Everyone who has come through our culture has suffered pain, abuse and humiliation to some extent. Everyone carries some sense of injury — shame, guilt, fear, the sense of missing personhood and moreover, everyone has plenty to grieve. Due to gender polarization (pushed by religion, family, advertising and on-the-ground culture), injured personhood is polarized to "injured manhood" and "injured femininity," yet in reality they are identical problems, seemingly vindicated and then polarized by gender.

If we are going to get anywhere, we must make a safe space for everyone to feel vulnerable. That will only happen in a trusting environment. We might measure that as a common place where women don't feel stalked and men don't feel humiliated if they cry.



Chiron: Key to the Gemstone File

Planet Waves

July 20, 2017

[Link to original](#)

Maybe it was the rare-to-find Orange Toastees, or maybe it was the world-famous date nut bread. Howard Johnson's in Arlington, Virginia, might have seemed like an odd place for a conclave of the captains of industry and the stewards of government, though that's where it happened.

From the transcript alone, you would probably never know the apocalyptic, species-threatening nature of the meeting, nor from the location, or the tone of the conversation. From the stenographic word-for-word account that somehow emerged, it seems as if spoken in whispers.

It's a panel discussion, with microphones at the dais, presumably in a motel's conference room, away from government property. No reporters were present; none know about it, or they surely would have been there.

Participants include government environmental regulators from the US and Canada whose names we know, along with their clearly identified lawyers and consultants.

Then there are a bunch of anonymous chemical industry representatives, all of whom manufacture pesticides and herbicides. They are each referred to as "A Voice." Their names are lost, assuming they were ever recorded.

It was a tight bunch; it's probable that anyone at the meeting could have recited the names of all the others. These are people who knew one another well and who did business together all the time, like the neighborhood business association of supertoxins manufacturers.

Someone in the room, whose role is unclear, was named Diane, an echo of the mystery secretary in *Twin Peaks*. We may assume the only other woman present was the stenographer, [Elizabeth Ann Tipton](#).

A Tuesday Almost Like Any Other

The time was a Tuesday morning in late 1978, the day of a solar eclipse. Why these people are meeting is to address how the entire universe of industrial and agricultural chemical safety testing — decades of allegedly scientific studies claiming that poisons such as pesticides are suitable to be sprayed on your food — had exploded in revelations of fraud and incompetence.

Two years earlier, someone intelligent at the FDA — Dr. Adrian Gross, a staff scientist there — figured out there was a problem, after actually looking at the data behind one of the studies and noticing that it seemed like fiction.

One testing lab was implicated, then the scandal spread to about 80 others. Newspapers and independent journalists were onto the story.

It would become the subject of Senate hearings called by Ted Kennedy. In 1983 there would be one of the longest criminal trials in American history, for fraud, involving the lab's top executives, conducted at the federal courthouse in Chicago.

The 130-page IBT-HoJo Transcript is part of [The Gemstone File](#), a digital library of historic documents that chronicle the chemical industry and its supposed government regulators from about 1930 forward. The library will be made available for free to the public sometime in the next week.

Mostly emerging from a barn in Oregon and a storage unit in rural New York State, its documents cover numerous agricultural compounds, industrial chemicals and ingredients of household products, all of which are still on the market. In other words, even though the health and safety studies were voided, the products remained in production. Many products currently in your home could be involved.

Its depositions, memos and scientific records contain many examples of regulatory failure, fraud and deception of the public: proof that what passes for science often is nothing of the kind.

It's a mine of missing information and details on compounds including Agent Orange, DDT, dioxins, furans, glyphosate, PCBs and other chemicals in your food, under your sink and in your bathroom. This resource will serve environmental activists, scholars and contamination survivors for generations, particularly as many of the same companies are now involved with genetically modified agriculture.

The Decryption Key

You might say that the IBT-HoJo Transcript is the key to understanding the whole sprawling Gemstone File. By key, I mean a mental decryption key, a bare exposition of the central pattern of every chemical scandal that ever was or is.

IBT stands for Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories, or IBT Labs, which was the name of a company and also the name of the whole affair, even though numerous other testing labs were found to have been involved in fraudulent or incompetent testing in the same era.

The IBT-HoJo Transcript starts slowly, like a Russian novel. At first, the only thing that keeps it interesting is if you know the context, which is impossible to overstate: all of the most commonly used pesticides and herbicides have been revealed as having fake toxicology studies backing up their use.

The goal of the meeting is ostensibly to address how to sort out all the data and make sense of it, and reconstruct something acceptable to public scrutiny. Then it becomes clear that's simply not possible, so you get a step-by-step demonstration of how to fudge over a canyon of missing data and make it seem plausible.

Then even that wears thin and it's apparent they're devising a plan to convince the public and the press that business should go on as usual: "to get on with the normal marketing of pesticides," as one participant put it.

There's no reconstructing anything. They're dealing with two decades of chaotic, make-believe, incomplete or missing data; practices like replacing dead test animals with live ones, but counting it as the same animal; and no integrity whatsoever in the most important kind of studies: those involving long-term exposure. The problems of the long-term studies are so endemic that the whole category is deemed unreliable, not even subject to audit. One problem IBT faced was that the situation in the lab was such a disaster, they could not keep most of the test animals alive for the whole study.

At first, you may hear someone say something that seems credible, such as "we are not proceeding" with evaluating the status of a chemical "until we have had a chance to examine all the studies."

'It's That Kind of Situation'

Then you might read, "We would proceed regardless of whether it was IBT data or not with the assumption that there is a certain market for the pesticide."

Then you might read, "As you are all aware, the cancellation and suspension actions talk about unreasonable adverse effects, and lack of a data base is unreasonable but it's not an adverse effect by itself."

Or, "We are going to be very flexible. We've got to. It's that kind of situation."

Then, soon, your mind is swimming in statements like, "raised extremely serious questions for the pesticide regulation process" or "there are 4,500 tests in our files from IBT, all of which are subject to some scrutiny" or "not in EPA's, public's, and registrants' interest to require registrants to replace all IBT data."

You read that there's "no reasonable way the Agency can proceed, either in re-registration efforts or in making regulatory decisions on the safety of the compound" or "would tie us up for years and also tie up the re-registration process" or even "very few long term tests followed original protocols."

Then you read that the EPA expects "validation to be completely accurate...and certainly not falsified in any respect." We learn that 80% of the studies were invalid for one reason or another. But it will all be completely accurate.

At one point, the top EPA official in the room says, "That is precisely the reason that we didn't suggest that everyone go to

the level of examining the pathology material because, unless you first do the review of which animals you can describe the tests on, there is no sense attempting to check pathology."

Once You Know IBT, Nothing's Shocking

We also know from the IBT-HoJo transcript that IBT conducted 4,500 studies in total. Yet the final report prepared by EPA and Health Welfare Canada five years later claims that IBT conducted only 800 studies. So what happened to the other 3,800 studies?

Once you understand what happened at IBT, you understand the method and see an extreme example of what's possible. Nothing really seems shocking by comparison, though it all rightfully is. And that is The Gemstone File, consisting of approximately 20,000 individual documents, on about 200,000 sheets of paper, weighing in at three tons, all of which was scanned the past 18 months.

The effort was headed by Peter von Stackelberg. Most documents came from the collection of Carol van Strum in Tidewater, Oregon. About 75,000 pages came from the files of Chiron Return, the nonprofit organization that publishes Planet Waves FM, of which I am executive director.

An Ominous Eclipse: Charting the IBT-HoJo Meeting

Because a court stenographer, paid for by IBT Labs, was present at the Howard Johnson's meeting, we have an exact time that the proceedings began: 9:45 am on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1978, in Arlington, VA.

I've said before: there are some charts that tell you about an event, and others that teach you astrology from scratch. This chart works both ways. It contains so many interesting patterns it would take a full-length article to describe them all. If you're an

astrology student, [print the chart](#), then [read the transcript](#), and get the best astrology lesson of your life.

However, several patterns stand out; and what really blazes out is that the meeting happens just hours after an eclipse of the Sun in Libra. The eclipse is like an epicenter, rippling out in all directions. Depending on your viewpoint, the eclipse either magnifies the effect of the meeting, or describes something with far-reaching consequences.

In astrology, nothing says "ominous" quite like an eclipse the morning of some huge event; so first, let's look at the aspect pattern surrounding the eclipse. That's in the chart right below this section.

What I'm calling the eclipse is four points to the upper left side of the chart: The Sun in yellow, Mercury in green, the Moon in gray and Pluto in red. They function as one entity, and together make up one corner of the grand square aspect. You can see that outlined in orange.

Adding Pluto to an eclipse illustrates the depth and impact of the situation, and Mercury says that it's about messaging. In the IBT-HoJo chart, the eclipse has moved into the 11th house of groups, on the cusp of the 12th house, representing the whole population — everyone is affected. Note, because Scorpio is rising, using whole sign houses, the whole cluster of Libra planets can be counted as being in the 12th — veiled from view, which is accurate, and affecting everyone. It's so wide, you can't get around it; so high, you can't get over it.

Other Points in the Grand Cross

Now let's consider the other points that are connected to the eclipse in the grand square (also called a grand cross) pattern. There are three: Nessus, Ceres and Eris. Let's take them one at a time. Remember, they are all acting upon one another, and part of the same story.

Ceres represents agriculture, and is the root of the word *cereal*. She is all about grain, though has many other sublime implications, often describing the grief we experience here on Earth, particularly around our children. Ceres is the Roman evolution of the Greek goddess Demeter; she is Earth Mother or Gaia.

The conversation is mostly about agricultural chemicals that are being sprayed on grain. Ceres is in Capricorn, rooted into the Earth. She's in the 3rd house, meaning all of this is ultimately a local affair. It comes home to your village, and your local grocery store.

Next is Eris, in the 6th house, which you might think of as the laboratory or work space. Eris can represent sheer chaos, and in this chart, that's what it's about. This chart presents Eris in her most destructive form.

The eclipse was in an opposition to Eris, and the incident is unfolding at the time of a rare, major, outer-planet aspect: Pluto in Libra, opposite Eris in Aries. (We are now experiencing Pluto in Capricorn, square Eris in Aries.)

Finally, the last leg of the square is Nessus, a centaur planet related to Chiron. The story of Nessus involves a *systemic poison that is delivered at the bidding of someone else*. Nessus also represents a *sequence of events that unfold in a karmic chain reaction*, sometimes coming back to the person who first set things in motion.

Note how close the Libra Moon is to the rest of the grand cross. The Moon is at 12+ degrees, about to knock on Ceres, then the Eris-Nessus square, immediately. Reading charts like this, always study what the Moon just did, what it does next, and what it does last before changing signs.

We pretty much have the whole story summed up in just the eclipse pattern. Now, let's look at a second version of the chart: one with even fewer planets, highlighting the ascendant and the descendant.

Mars Rising, Opposite Chiron Setting

Another aspect pattern that highlights the urgency and the intensity of the situation is Mars opposite Chiron. Mars is in red to the left, Chiron is in orange, to the right. The opposition is exact to a small fraction of a degree. In fact, it's the closest aspect in the chart, and despite much other interesting stuff, the real distinction of this horoscope.

Mars rising has a violent feel. Mars rising in Scorpio takes things to the hormonal level. Note that Mars is joined by Venus; and both are conjunct Uranus — another planet that can represent chaos and disruption.

With Venus, Mars and Uranus all rising in Scorpio, what we get is a picture of the hormonal chaos that these chemicals are inflicting on the planet. The astrological reference is that Scorpio represents the biological basis of sex, which is hormonal and genetic. Many of these compounds' worst effects, including cancer, have their roots in causing hormone mayhem. This was not understood at the time; that will take another decade or more.

There are clues available, though the idea of an endocrine disruptor is not focused at the time of this meeting. Rather, the term "endocrine disruptor" was introduced at the historic Wingspread Conference in Wisconsin, in 1991.

All of the pesticides and herbicides being discussed in the IBT-HoJo meeting — though we don't know their chemical names — will eventually be categorized as endocrine disruptors, a fact which is somewhat shockingly predicted by the ascendant of this chart.

Mars in Scorpio is opposite Chiron in Taurus. Chiron, discovered only 11 months before the date of this meeting, is setting on the western horizon. It's as prominent as the Sun at sunset. You cannot miss it; it speaks for the whole environment, the whole scenario. Chiron is a healing factor, but it can also represent a healing crisis. The thing that must happen to tap into Chiron is that one must raise awareness: gain knowledge, understand the situation, and see one's options.

Chiron's story, as well, includes the same systemic poison that's in the Nessus myth. You might say that "something is going around." That includes toxins, and it also includes a growing awareness of the holistic principle: that all life is related to all other life. With Chiron, we either get the crisis on its own — a dense reaction — or we get the healing crisis and associated awareness.

If you're even vaguely interested in this issue, the document to start with is an eloquent book called *Silent Spring* [[read Planet Waves' review here](#)]. This is a book that's on everyone's reading list. Forget your list and read this book, so you understand these issues, their early history and why this matters so much.

There's just one last thing. In the 2nd house of this chart — the one representing money — there's a nifty little conjunction. That is between Neptune, the planet of dreams, delusions and deception, and Pallas Athene, the asteroid of law and government. This meeting is about money, and government collusion with industry to make sure the cash keeps flowing: getting back to marketing pesticides as usual, as the man said.

That's the driving force. It's not about people and their health.

We are the ones who must make it so. And we can.

The Gemstone File will soon be available to everyone. [Note, it's now posted at three locations, which you can find on the sidebar at [Planet Waves FM.](#)]

Chart Data: IBT-HoJo Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 1978
9:45:00 AM EDT Arlington, Virginia

Chiron in Aries: Exploring the Ground of Being

Planet Waves

March 29, 2018

[Link to original](#)

On April 17, Chiron will enter Aries -- its first return to that sign since 1968-1977, an eventful era that left its mark on the world. Outer planet transits through signs tend to describe phases in history. During those particular years, Chiron was in the phase of its cycle prior to its own discovery, which took place in November 1977.

Chiron is almost always described first as an agent of healing. Aries is the sign of identity, and there are few places these days that need more love and positive attention.

Chiron will be arriving in Aries after seven years of Uranus in this sign, including the Uranus-Pluto square and the Uranus-Eris conjunction -- an era that has manifested a pandemic of identity chaos and a corresponding destabilization of society on nearly every level.

Much of this has been induced by the dominance of the internet, which we think of as a torrent of information, yet which is better described as a collective out-of-body experience. To the extent we're not aware of that fact, Chiron is likely to make it more obvious and easier to document.

We're also experiencing the rise of robotics. That doesn't mean R2D2 or little vacuum cleaners your cat rides around on: it means Facebook, Google, automated streaming music platforms and anything else that drives itself.

These devices are teaching people how to think and behave like machines. It's plausible that human thought patterns are approaching robotic ones faster than artificial intelligence is approaching human capabilities.

Regarding identity, it's easy to envision Chiron in Aries peeling off the crust of self-concept and pretension and guiding matters closer to an experience of actual self. This can be liberating, and will be for many people. It can also be frightening and profoundly disorienting, especially for those who have invested most or all of their identity into the internet, or into a concept of themselves that has not been tested through experience.

As an agent of healing, Chiron works first through raising awareness of matters that need to be addressed. At such a time there will often be solutions and remedies available. Though, as Adrienne Rich wrote at the dawn of the last Chiron in Aries era, "There are methods but we do not use them."

Yet the point is, we can. We have access to knowledge -- more of it than ever. We can make decisions. Most of the problems faced by humanity have already been solved. We might consider availing ourselves of the solutions that have been developed with so much devotion, love and effort.

Chiron has been in Pisces since 2010-2011, for about the past eight years. Chiron in Pisces began with a bang: the BP oil gusher into the Gulf of Mexico on the very day it first ingressed the sign of oceans; then the Fukushima quake and meltdowns (which corresponded, to the day, to Uranus leaving Pisces); and the many incredible events of 2011, including a series of protest movements (Arab Spring, the Wisconsin labor movement and Occupy Wall Street).

Now that we're at the end of this cycle, we are witnessing the most impassioned social uprisings we've seen in many decades. There is an actual youth movement, as well as significant

pushback on many of society's most pressing issues. There are also some very serious problems we need to push back against. Chiron in Aries may provide just the spark: the idea, "What can one person do? I may as well try."

The First Centaur: Technical and Historical Background

Chiron, as mentioned, enters Aries for the first time on April 17. Then it will briefly retrograde back into Pisces this September, and make its last station-direct in Pisces. It will take up residence in Aries in February 2019, where it will remain until transitioning into Taurus in 2026-2027.

A massive comet with some properties of an asteroid, Chiron has an elongated, elliptical orbit. It spends more time in Aries than any other sign; its aphelion, or most distant point from the Sun, is there. At the other end of the zodiac, it spends a mere 18 months in Libra (that's the perihelion, or closest point to the Sun). It bears the dual astronomical designation of minor planet (2060) Chiron, and comet 95P/Chiron.

Soon after it was first discovered in 1977, by an astronomer named Charles Kowal, Chiron got a lot of attention from astrologers in the early years. This was unprecedented in modern astrology, and something we've yet to see repeated.

By the mid-1980s there were several excellent books published (which are still among the better resources available; I'll include a list at the end of this article).

Chiron was the first of what became the centaur class of bodies (generally, orbit crossers), the second of which was Pholus (discovered in 1992, now in early Capricorn, about to take a square from Chiron). Astronomers believe that Chiron was [drawn in by gravity from the Kuiper Belt](#), the region of space occupied by Pluto, and has now settled into a much shorter period orbit than that of a Kuiper object (about 50 years as opposed to about 300 years).

Chiron spends most of its orbit outside that of Saturn and extends almost out to that of Uranus (illustrating this point, Chiron will spend more time in Aries than Uranus spends in any sign). Note that, as far as I understand it, Chiron crosses the orbit of Saturn on the Libra side, and grazes that of Uranus on the Aries side. This is what makes Chiron the "bridge between the inner and outer planets" (borrowing from the title of a popular book), as it has the capacity to be both. Or we might say that Chiron connects the visible with the invisible planets, though under the right conditions you can see Uranus without a telescope.

The Saturn-Uranus connection describes the dynamic quality of Chiron, which serves among other things to ground energy into matter and infuse energy with form. Some have observed that Chiron has its "uranian" side, and its "saturnian" side, though it almost always draws properties of both.

There's so much conflicting, incomplete or incorrect information about Chiron on the internet that it helps to approach the topic with an open mind. With Chiron, direct experience is essential to understanding.

You'll know you have an accurate sample of material to draw on when your experiences and collected tales are wildly diverse, representing the many modes of action seen associated with this body.

Important key concepts that are often left out of descriptions include mentorship, the maverick, the teacher's teacher, hybrids of seemingly incompatible things, service and patience.

However, because part of Chiron's role is to point out, reveal or expose existing problems and flaws in any system or process, it doesn't have such a good reputation among many astrologers.

Yet Chiron is not causing the problems; it's bringing them to the surface so they can be healed. In revealing any underlying issues, Chiron's presence will almost always point to an appropriate response, though it may not be convenient. And just because the issue is raised does not mean there will be a solution or much progress. That is a matter of choice. And currently there are many moving parts in operation. For example, the Chiron in Aries era will include the Pluto return of the United States, and the transiting aspect Pluto square Eris. We're gonna need all the Chiron we can get.

The Last Time Around: 1968-1977

History is not necessarily the best teacher, though it's helpful to be aware of it if we want to choose something different in the future. In that spirit, let's review Chiron's most recent visit to Aries. This spanned between early 1968 and early 1977, signifying a distinct phase of world history.

(Working with Dale O'Brien, who I quote a little later in this article, I've developed a sense of Chiron in Aries dating back to the American Revolution. The United States has Chiron in Aries; we will cover this in a future article.)

I associate Chiron in Pisces (1961-1969, then 2010-present) [with the Beatles](#). You might think of Chiron in Aries as the post-Beatles Sixties -- the dark and more obviously violent side. Yet there were interesting dynamics, such as individuality ("one small step for a man") and a kind of collectivism (the Woodstock festival).

The events of 1968 were so stunning that when I was living in Paris in the mid-2000s, the phrase *Soixante-huit!* (Sixty-eight!) still invoked the revolutionary spirit.

There was a massive student movement in Mexico that year, which occurred during the run-up to the 1968 Summer Olympics -- the one where two American medalists gave the Black Power

salute. The Mexican protest movement (whose motto was "We don't want the Olympics, we want revolution") was violently crushed by the police.

It was also the year of the Tet Offensive, a particularly atrocious phase of the Vietnam War, and the My Lai Massacre, perhaps the single most horrid event of that war -- which would rage on for another five years despite nonstop protests.

Chiron first entered Aries on April 1, 1968, and four days later, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, which in effect ended the Civil Rights movement. This came one year to the day after Dr. King linked the issues of racial oppression and the war in Vietnam. Just three months later, in June 1968, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles, the night he won the California primary.

During Chiron in Aries, the Watergate scandal took place, as did the resignation of Pres. Richard M. Nixon (notably, Nixon was elected with Chiron retrograde in the last degree of Pisces). The Kent State massacre happened (along with shootings in Jackson and Buffalo). The Supreme Court issued many famous decisions, including *Roe v. Wade*, which guaranteed the women the right to end pregnancies. The Stonewall incident in Greenwich Village in 1969 represented the beginning of the modern LGBT movement.

This was the era when identity politics emerged as the dominant force, something that persists to the current day. The closely unified anti-war movement of the mid-1960s (a direct outgrowth of the civil rights movement of the 1950s) began to fracture into a women's movement, an environmental movement, a student movement, a peace movement, racial equality movements, and many others.

A New Age spiritual movement was born, which shunned both politics and sexuality, attempting to define itself with a kind of purist approach to existence. Right-wing politics began to define

itself as anti-abortion, pro-guns and based on fundamentalist Christianity.

In essence, during the most recent Chiron in Aries period, the teams were chosen for the political games we are seeing played out today. Everything became a personal issue. Differences were emphasized over commonality.

The term "the personal is political" was coined by the radical feminist collective Redstockings during the phase when Chiron was close to the Aries Point around 1969 -- the first degree of Aries that works as a crossroads between the individual and the collective.

"Identity" is an Aries concept, so it's understandable that one result of Chiron in Aries would focus the issue in some hyperbolic ways. Yet what happened at the end of the 1960s was predictable: identity leading to separation. In the half-century since Chiron ingressed Aries, the left and right wings of American politics have become so polarized that they seem to agree on nothing except nonstop war.

Just in time for Chiron returning to Aries, we are suddenly seeing a shift in the political environment, in the form of people getting together, and previously separate movements joining forces. As one black student said during last weekend's protest, we've emphasized differences for long enough. It's time to emphasize what we have in common.

The Chiron-Mars Dynamic

Chiron in Aries resonates with Mars-Chiron aspects (Aries is ruled by Mars). With those aspects, there's often a struggle between the impulse for aggression, and taking the 'wise warrior' approach to life and its challenges.

Marshall McLuhan, in his 1968 book *War and Peace in the Global Village*, proposed that all violence is a quest for identity, whether

national, cultural, tribal or individual. Given the staggering identity crisis society is struggling through (related to the disembodied quality of the internet), we might have cause for concern about Chiron in Aries. And we have a proposed explanation for all the violence we're already witnessing.

There are other ways to use Mars-Chiron dynamics for the purpose of self-discovery, which I'll get into in the last section, on Chiron conjunct Salacia.

You might be familiar with the 'wise warrior' tradition through the work of the [Tibetan master Chogyam Trungpa](#), in *Shambhala: The Sacred Path of the Warrior*. "The key to warriorship and the first principle of Shambhala vision is not being afraid of who you are," he wrote. "Ultimately, that is the definition of bravery: not being afraid of yourself."

This would be an excellent bit of guidance to take on our Chiron in Aries journey. It would seem that the generation of young people who are taking on the NRA have this as a kind of silent credo.

He also wrote, "We must try to think beyond our homes, beyond the fire burning in the fireplace, beyond sending our children to school or getting to work in the morning. We must try to think how we can help this world. If we don't help, nobody will. It is our turn to help the world."

This suggestion applies to many people born in the 1980s who feel they are doing their activist work by raising chickens and laying low. After all, the world needs organic eggs. If that is driven by fear of coming forward with one's politics, or the fear of confrontation, it won't be an effective form of activism.

Wednesday night, I checked in with my old friend and colleague [Dale O'Brien](#), someone I consider a pioneer of Chiron awareness.

"When Chiron enters a sign where other outer planets have recently been, he's the triage doctor. Chiron coming behind Uranus and Eris presents an opportunity to bring wisdom to all the outrageous and terrible things that have happened," he said.

"Chiron-Mars dynamics, which apply to Aries, are about being wise about the issue of war, and of the folly of going into war; the true courage to use no violence or minimal violence; or the fearful and cowardly who go to too much violence and aggression."

Chiron in Aries is likely to "focus issues of courage versus cowardly violence. Going back to last time, in the late 1960s, it was the hawks and the doves. There was even a restaurant that opened on Capitol Hill called Hawks and Doves. The hawks tend to be those who don't go to war but send people to war."

We are seeing this dynamic played out today in young students standing up to the NRA and people obsessed with possessing military-grade weapons in civilian society -- which are then used against civilians.

The war has come home, and the hawks and doves are trying to work out a compromise over the purported right to possess weapons of war.

"Martial arts and the sacred path of the warrior would be an appropriate yoga under Chiron-Aries conditions. The thing about the martial arts is that knowing you could fight means you don't have to.

"The opposite is being afraid that violence could be imposed, therefore I need to resort to wimpy, cowardly violence. Who is doing this wisely, and who is doing the worst possible version of it?" he asked.

Comparing the conditions of Chiron in Pisces to those in Aries, he said, "With Chiron in Pisces, there's compassion and empathy for

unnecessary, widespread suffering and death. This is the prerequisite for the action taken with Chiron in Aries. With Chiron in Aries, there's the feeling that we can do something about it, each individual taking a stand against incredible odds."

But this must be peaceful action, he said. "Resorting to violence during Chiron in Aries makes it worse for the underdog who provokes things. To meet violence with violence when you're the underdog is not wise."

Chiron Conjunct Salacia in Aries

When we consider Chiron in the context of sexuality, we come closer to seeking identity through a means other than violence, which at the same time brings us closer to the ground of being. Wherever we may speculate humans or certain human tribes come from, whether Atlantis, Lemuria or the Pleiades, it is a fact that human life as we know it is created by sex.

Whether this is appealing to you or not, we are all fucked into existence. And all that follows from existence itself, from the atomic bomb to the electric guitar to a vegan banquet, is the result of that fucking. I recognize this is highly controversial -- but the thoughtful question is: why?

This most basic biological truth leads to nearly all of the spiritual conflict propagated by religion. The denial of sex as a creative force leads to sex as a toxic and violent force, which in turn leads to a kind of death obsession and the impulse to kill. Given the choice between better sex with less murder, or less (or violent) sex with more murder, many people would have to stop and think about what they wanted.

This is the prevailing state of confusion today, particularly where sex is polarized by politics -- a condition that dominates nearly all of sexuality, to the point where we forget what sex actually is: a deeply personal form of creative expression and sharing of intimacy.

Contemporary sex culture is dominated by identity. Today someone can say, "I identify as trans non-binary gender queer," and that's supposed to mean something. Yes, but what do you do? How does sex feel to you? Why do you want it? To respond to those questions requires going beyond identity, labels, jargon or self-concept, into the deeper ground of being. To go deeper requires vulnerability. These allegedly precise concepts would seem, on one level, to be a form of personality armor.

People also tend to identify with their sexual wounds, which often seem to never heal. Perhaps because there are methods, but we do not use them; perhaps it's because the discussion of sex is so taboo, and the notion of sexual healing nearly nonexistent, outside of a political realm. Yet to heal from sexual trauma, it's necessary to subtract the political realm and address what is deeply personal. This does not need to be done in isolation, though it's not about "fighting the power."

When Chiron enters Aries, it will be joining a slow-moving planet called Salacia, which made a spectacular appearance in 2017 and 2018 as it was conjunct the first degree of Aries -- the Aries Point. We witnessed (and are witnessing) a good bit of sexuality come to the surface, most of it salacious, set in a corporate or political consciousness. We've evolved from Harvey Weinstein being its poster child to Stormy Daniels taking up the role of sexual culture-bearer.

Yet she is still an icon, a hero to some and a villain to others. This is the thing we need to get beyond: external identification with someone. We need to claim the matter of sex and sexuality first as personal property, and then as collective.

Claiming sexuality as one's birthright, and as an essential factor in existence, is confrontational. It does not feel like blending in or becoming one of the crowd. Yet the confrontation is not really with the world: it's with yourself. Initially, it's about going beyond identity and self-concept and moving closer to core self.

The next layer may feel like sorting out whether one associates sex with toxicity, violence and death, or creativity, love and life. This would seem to be the most delicate personal choice. While it is not a political statement per se, observing that your sexuality is connected to the life force, and therefore all of life, is to stand out and be different. It is the choice to relate to life on entirely different terms from what we have pushed on us, whether by mainstream culture (which views women's bodies and sexual imagery as a way to sell cars and liquor, and views actual sex as a fetish or perversion) or minority culture (which tends to view sexuality as a political statement, or a statement of wounding).

Many people put their sexuality on display, while claiming that it has nothing at all to do with sex (and how dare anyone think so). This is an approach-avoid tactic that is all about body shame.

There's another way to experience sex and sexuality. My hunch is that as Chiron enters Aries and gradually works its way toward Salacia, the sanctimonious edifice of "sexual identity" and "sexual purity" will begin to crumble, and the real thing will be exposed. This will be happening in a time when many other forms of energy are being released, seemingly without the hint of ever stopping (Pholus in Capricorn is involved -- a genie will be let out of the bottle).

While many will truly appreciate the opportunity for personal liberation, this will not all be sweetness and starlight. We're going to need people who are unashamed, unabashed and who know themselves well, to serve as assistants for those who are ready to claim their trauma as their teacher, and their pleasure as their creative expression. Thankfully there are many who have been learning these skills quietly, in the background. It is now time to come forward: to take the risk of being known for what you know, and what you do.

Closer to the point is being entirely comfortable with your body and what it does and feels, and letting go of the toxic shame that

has accumulated from generations of avoidance. There are aspects of this that must be done alone, and other aspects that can only be done together.

The bottom line here is learning how to trust and be vulnerable, which is a personal choice, and a personal quest. Though, if you tune in carefully, you may notice that there's no other viable option.

Chart Data:

Discovery of Chiron

Natal Chart

Tuesday, November 1, 1977

10:02:05 AM PST

Pasadena, California

Tropical: Koch True Node

The Pandemic Scenario: Chiron Square Pholus and the Lunar Nodes

Special Comment, added in March 2026

There is a seeming gap in my writing about Chiron from the late twenty-teens into the early 2020s. While we are looking for articles from that era, I want to add a short comment about an aspect associated with the pandemic scenario.

You may be aware that during this era, the Planet Waves team was devoted to getting to the bottom of what was happening in the world, and I had to sacrifice some coverage of astrology to get the medical science right. I'll add a few documents from that era at the end of this brief entry.

Our finding, confirmed by other investigators working independently, was that "covid" was a digital crisis, driven by digital consciousness. By that, I mean the "virus" (MN908947) was created digitally, and paid for by Bill Gates. That the "test" was a digital device, the use of which was urged against 15 years earlier. The news spread via digital technology and any attempt to offer a contrasting narrative was immediately policed and removed by A.I. robots. But what I really mean was that the crisis spread through a society of people whose minds were compromised by overexposure to digital technology. I cover this in the article [They Were Barefoot in Babylon](#).

Most astrologers call Pluto square Eris the "covid aspect." That is true enough. Between early 2020 and late 2021, there was a series of five squares between Pluto in Capricorn and Eris in Aries. Once you have a sense of how Eris drives chaos,

specifically emanating from the electrical and digital realms, it's easy to see how this worked. The demolition of physical structures in the world was furthered, the digital agenda advanced, and concepts like the "vaccine passport" were introduced.

What was called "covid" was a manifestation of both digital consciousness and digital technology.

The Saturn-Pluto Conjunction in Capricorn

Early in the crisis (before anyone knew there was one, in January 2020), there was a conjunction between Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn, which could also be seen as the "covid aspect."

This was the conjunction that corresponded to the infamous Saturn-Pluto opposition that arrived with the Sept. 11 incident and the forever war that followed it.

The Chiron-Pholus Square

Another aspect was active at the time. That was the Chiron-Pholus square, which spanned from June 1, 2017 to March 7, 2020 — concluding just a week before Trump declared the emergency in the U.S. on March 13, 2020.

The pattern shows up prominently in the chart for the National Emergency, shown below. When I saw that at the time, I thought, OK maybe this will run out of momentum; after all, the square ends in March.

Here are some notes on that extremely rare aspect, which had not happened since 1946, and before that, 1886,

Pholus, the second centaur, will often describe a situation where things go out of control. It's the pressurized release where everything comes out of a contained vessel and then can fill up the whole environment. The lunar south node is itself a release

point. Between 2017 and early 2020 there were plenty of things “going out of control” to be found in society, particularly the public relations-driven misandry campaign of late 2017 through early 2019.

Chiron — which can describe a medical crisis or other situation — is making a series of squares to Pholus, pushing the “out of control medical crisis.” In the emergency chart, Chiron is exactly square the lunar nodes. What is square the lunar nodes is what must be addressed for the situation to be handled in a responsible way.

One way or another it will manifest, and if not addressed properly will contribute to the crisis. So Chiron square the nodes is what must be addressed, which is to say, healing matters taken seriously. They were not. The truth is still not known to most of the public, nor to most doctors.

Here are some documents of that era:

The Covid Chronology, by the Planet Waves staff and others, spanning 2016 through 2021.

Don't Look Back, a summary of events of late 2019 and early 2020 with astrological description.

Covid19 News, a daily news aggregation spanning from March 2020 through May 2023.

The Coronavirus Novel, a bibliography of my writing about the crisis. There is all kinds of interesting stuff packed into this resource.



“Saturn, Pluto and Mars.” Mixed-media by [Lanvi Nguyen](#).

To The Edge and Beyond

Planet Waves
Feb. 23, 2023
[Link to original](#)

*With every mistake we must surely be learning
While my guitar gently weeps — G.H.*

DESPITE ALL THAT IS HAPPENING in the world, from East Palestine to Ukraine, the lead story is the astrology of March 2023. Of course, you can only really say this to an astrology audience; however, in case you're new to the topic, I'll be developing the theme today. Much of what I've written about the past two years comes to fruition in the next five weeks or so.

This is some of the most concentrated and all encompassing astrology I've ever seen. Even spread out over much more time, the changes we have in March 2023 would be profound. But we

are getting a glimpse of their intensity with the world-changing events we are witnessing now.

We are indeed heading right to the edge, and then somewhere beyond.

As this happens, many of us are feeling helpless about what is happening on the planet. As the situation grows worse, there seems to be little that we can do.

It's not that easy to muster up optimism or to put a happy face on a gazillion pound dioxin bomb going off right in the middle of 125,000 farms (just counting Pennsylvania and Ohio). I will have a more detailed analysis of what we've learned this week on my program Friday night.

This is Happening in an Already Stressed Out World

When something like this blights your community, it's devastating. I experienced what people in East Palestine are going through in a greatly reduced form. Yet I got it at full strength because I was on the front lines of [forcing the State of New York](#) to spend more than \$50 million (in 1990s dollars) on a cleanup of four dormitories, a theater and a science complex.

When you hear the president of Norfolk Southern say he's pledged \$6.5 million to help residents, remember that cleaning a few dorms and a theater (badly) and an academic building (pretty well, by gut renovation) cost ten times that amount 30 years ago.

This is all happening in a world where nearly everyone is stressed to the max. The people in the immediately impacted region of Ohio and Pennsylvania are on the edge financially and many are taking care of kids, a couple of elderly relatives and their dogs and cats.

They have nowhere to go. A working class family of seven cannot just pick up and relocate. [More on that Friday night.](#)

In this article I want to look at the astrology of the next month or so, and get a sense of where the world is headed, and us along with it. Use these links if you need specific [information about the dioxin release](#) or the [history of the issue](#) (those take you to Substack; please click through the options and you'll get to my writing). I will have more on Friday's [Planet Waves FM](#).

From Investigative Reporting to Astrology and Back

For anyone new in my reading audience wondering how a hard-science investigative journalist also writes about astrology, it happened this way. Studying astrology for me was initially a vacation from my last full-time tour of duty as an investigative reporter on the dioxin issue. After three years of covering a local event in New Paltz, New York, and the [world history of a form of dioxin called PCBs](#), I needed a retreat, and that was astrology. This was in the winter of 1994-1995.

I experimented with a horoscope column (which I still write, see below). Soon after, I began writing about news astrology, which is usually reading the charts for bad things happening: mass shootings, airplane crashes, the Space Shuttle disintegrating, nuclear meltdowns, wars beginning, earthquake/tsunamis, election disasters, hurricanes making landfall and flooding — the whole gamut of what we would rather not think about.

Astrology provides spiritual context for events, which makes them a little easier to handle. Studying the chart helps me get below the surface of what is apparent, including situations where there is a well-established fact pattern, but where we need some ideas to tie it together — and the long-term view.

Astrology serves to frame the issues and pose questions that then need to be sussed out. I do not count on any chart as a source of truth, but more like a divining rod to help me figure out what to look for. It can also hint at the meaning of events. I have found that providing even a little meaning and context can ease that sense of feeling powerless and that everything is random or irrelevant.

What is happening now is that because the dioxin story has gone unreported for the past 29 years in the corporate press, very few people know about the basics, and nearly nobody knows the history back to the 1940s — but I do, as does my friend and mentor in this issue, Carol van Strum. We both [spoke to the residents of East Palestine](#) earlier this week; I recognize that it's difficult to listen to the truth and accept the gravity of this situation.

I cannot stand this any more than you can. I am deeply upset by these events, and I am more stunned at what I am saying each time I do a new interview.

The Planets: Where We Are Today

The chart I am working with today is for the conjunction of Venus, Jupiter and Chiron on Thursday, March 2. This is the last big chart right before everything changes. (I've removed a lot of planets to make it easier to see what is happening.) I say big because it involves the alignment of Venus and Jupiter — generally, considered significant of a positive development — with the Chiron factor, which adds an edge of urgency. This arrangement is circled in purple.

In this setup, the Moon in sensitive Cancer forms a tense, 90-degree aspect to Chiron, which emphasizes the "deal with it" factor. Like all things Chiron, this has two edges. The growth implied by Venus-Jupiter-Chiron comes with recognizing the pain of the world. Staying in a state of awareness or self-actualization means being aware of the pain of the world, and one's own pain.

Most of how we "deal with" problems in our society is denial. This is ever-easier under digital conditions where you can subscribe to any point of view you like, and then make that your "reality." It does not help that there seem to be no bonus points for investing yourself in seeking sincere understanding.

So let's take Saturn first. I will give some technical details in this discussion — enough for those who want to follow along.

Saturn Enters Pisces on March 7

Saturn is the reality principle. You can see it right at the end of Aquarius, right at the bottom of the chart. It's the yellow symbol, circled in green.

The number 29 and change means it's in the last degree of the sign. Right next to it is Mercury: that says, "get the message." Saturn enters Pisces Tuesday, March 7. It joins a slow-mover that's been there since 2011, which is Neptune.

Neptune is the fantasy principle. It's about denial, delusion and deception, often driven by alcohol, but in our age, the mind-altering substance is digital technology. And this energy is running out of control.

Saturn entering Pisces will be sobering. While Pisces can take a while to respond to a new transit, Saturn is here to set a boundary on the extent of denial people are capable of.

There will be some uncomfortable situations created as people wake up to what they were not paying attention to, or the extent to which they have surrendered their power to others. This could be you.

Saturn entering Pisces is about cleaning up emotional boundaries and getting some containment around the yin energy that is currently running out of control. The perfect expression of the problem is the uncontrolled release of contaminated water. While this may not happen to you magically, know that the energy is available and that you can make changes along these lines. They could influence any aspect of your life.

Mars Square Neptune and the Sun on March 14

One week after Saturn enters Pisces, Mars makes its final square to Neptune. I first discussed this aspect pattern in the article [Rumors](#), which will give you excellent background on what is happening now. This is the last of three events of Mars square

Neptune that are part of the Mars retrograde cycle that is still working itself out. The other two squares were Oct. 12, 2022 and Nov. 19, 2022.

The third and final square is Tuesday, March 14. This whole pattern is about a series of diversionary events that distract us from more important things. We were distracted from the first week of the dioxin train wreck by a Chinese “spy balloon” and the Air Force allegedly shooting down UFOs.

These diversions can be contained within real events: Trump going to Ohio and bringing his brand of bottled water and cleaning supplies. My god, what an insult. Or how about Ohio’s Gov. Mike DeWine and the regional EPA chief toasting and drinking tap water in an old lady’s home.

This is an act of outright fraud that is apropos of Mars square Neptune. Keep an eye out for more. By my reading, the biggest of the diversionary events happens right around this time. One of the factors that powers up this event is that the Sun is involved: the aspect is Mars square Neptune, with the Sun square Mars. This is like shining a bright light into a fog. You cannot see any better. You just get a giant reflection.

From the final square, it will take Mars until March 25 to enter Cancer. That, too, represents a major event, as the first degree of Cancer is right at the intersection of the individual and the collective (the Aries Point system).

Pluto Enters Aquarius on March 23

This is one of the watershed events of our lifetime. Pluto changing signs affects the structure of society, and changes the cast of our individual lives. Pluto has been in Capricorn since 2008, and the moment it got there, Capricorn-ruled institutions started crumbling. This came a few years after the Twin Towers (Saturn in Gemini) met the transnational, unstoppable force (opposite Pluto in Sagittarius) and fell down like marionettes dropped by the puppeteer.

This is also what happened during Pluto in Capricorn: the banks started collapsing, and many sectors of society started crumbling.

Aquarius represents two things: social patterns (in older astrological language, groups) and where the individual meets the group (in the old language, unique people or weirdos). Aquarius is also where the group tries to bring people expressing their individuality under control.

So therefore, Aquarius is equally about enforced conformity as it is about personal expression. We have seen big dramas involving conformity under the influence of Saturn in Aquarius over the past three years.

Here is the rub. The social patterns of our era are all under the control of the internet and of digital consciousness. We are transformed beings, whose very thought patterns, sense of identity, and sense of physical reality have been digitized. Digital is not a thing outside of us anymore. It is who we are and the world we live in.

And into this dimension, Pluto will be entering, with all of its transformative power. We live extremely fragile existences under digital conditions and in many ways are no longer at home on the Earth; no longer comfortable among one another. Without ongoing contact with physical existence, and without real human companionship, it is difficult to trust. It is difficult to conceive of your existence as a physical being.

So Pluto will be the ultimate reality check for these digital lives we have been lured, seduced, or dragged into, even if we thought it was voluntary — we had no choice, as the tide rose all around us.

Yet we remain creatures who exist in bodies. We will finally have to come to terms with the words of the philosopher Eric McLuhan:

“The body is everywhere assaulted by all of our new media, a state which has resulted in deep disorientation of intellect and destabilization of culture throughout the world. In the age of

disembodied communication, the meaning and significance and experience of the body is utterly transformed and distorted.”

Will we correct those distortions, or go deeper into them? That is the question.

The Chiron Factor: Part One

Planet Waves

September 5, 2024

[Link to original](#)

Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear.

Just five months ago, the world experienced a total solar eclipse conjunct Chiron. Exact to the arc minute (1/60th of a degree), this astonishing eclipse cast a shadow that spanned from northern Mexico, diagonally across the United States and into southeastern Canada.

Next year, Chiron will again emerge as a rising star, thanks to a conjunction to Eris that spans from May 27, 2025 through March 19, 2026. The orb of influence, in time, is much wider, and we are experiencing this conjunction now. This is an event with a three-year margin on either side, so we've been in it for a while.

For those new to astrology, or my astrology, it's my position that planetary events do not cause things. Rather, they serve as metaphors, and we witness their actual expressions in the human world within and around us.

So What is Chiron?

Said in as few words as possible, Chiron (a small object orbiting our Sun just beyond Saturn) represents self-actualization. It's about the challenging, difficult and often painful process of healing the past and growing into who you are. It's about living through the details of healing rather than merely talking about in broad generalizations.

More than anything, Chiron is about the process through which we grow into wholeness and true maturity.

In our time, the subject matter of Chiron spans from working through family trauma to addressing the psychic fragmentation resulting from overexposure to the image-driven, egotistical digital environment. It's about standing out and apart in a way that is honest, in parallel with a commitment to service.

The internal growth process that Chiron represents is working to cut through our increasingly superficial culture and put us in contact with who we are on a much deeper and more sincere level of awareness. You could say that Chiron is about finding your soul, which is discovering a process of learning and not a thing. And now that process is being accelerated rapidly.

A Discovery that Changed Astrology

The discovery of Chiron on Nov. 1, 1977 by Charles Kowal changed astrology, at least for a while. With the first widely-publicized sighting of a new solar system object since Pluto in 1930, some astrologers immediately went to work trying to discern what it was about. They had very little in the way of precedent for that process; the delineation of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto were largely lost to history.

This level of interest was helped greatly by the attention that astronomers were giving a new discovery in a region of the solar system where there were no other known objects. These were eventually called the centaur class of planets, and there are now about 100 known objects in this group.

Chiron has an egg-shaped orbit of just over 50 years, far outside of any known asteroid belt. At its closest to the Sun, it crosses the orbit of Saturn and at its most distant, grazes the orbit of Uranus.

Led by Al H. Morrison, Zane Stein and Erminie Lantero, a subset of what was then an actual astrological community, each set out to decipher the meaning of what *The New York Times* had described on its front page as potentially being "the tenth planet." Morrison's role was to provoke the discussion and get people going, including Dale O'Brien and Morrison's close friend Debbi Kempton-Smith.

Stein and Lantero wrote the first books. Then the more well known titles by Melanie Reinhart and Barbara Hand Clow followed. The fact of a new discovery receiving immediate research attention was a significant step forward for astrology, which generally does not like to change its ways, or even think much about them.

For example, Pluto was not recognized as a noteworthy astrological factor until the 1960s, and even then it was a boutique item. Only its monthly position was listed in the back pages of *Raphael's Ephemeris* even until the mid-1970s, more than 40 years after its discovery.

(The other known planets were listed in the daily longitude tables that made up the book). Chiron, incidentally, is finally included (in the back, with a few asteroids); like Pluto, it took about 40 years to get in. What's the rush?

In our time, it's easy for Chiron to get lost in the sauce. Chiron was given minor planet number (2060). Pluto is (134340). Eris is (136399). These numbers are always notated in parentheses. There are now known to be well over one million objects orbiting our Sun. (I have a call out with the Minor Planet Center at Harvard to get the current total. OK here is the answer: as of

today, there are [1,386,752 objects known to be orbiting our Sun.](#)) You might ask how one would work with these. The answer is selectively, one at a time. [Start here.](#)

The Voice that Came From You and Me

Like Bob Dylan, though, the voice of Chiron [came from the people.](#) Astrology of a certain kind (“what’s your sign?”) was already experiencing a peak of popularity at the time of its discovery and was ready for a change. The use of computers to cast charts made it more accessible to those who lacked such mathematical ability (which took hours if done manually).

Linda Goodman (*Sun Signs, Love Signs* and others) was still a bestselling author, and so was Carlos Castaneda (*The Teachings of Don Juan* and others). The New Age spiritual movement was growing in mainstream popularity, and astrology conveyed many of those themes. All New Age bookstores had an astrology shelf.

But most from that era would say there was something lacking in astrology, and Chiron answered that need.

Themes raised by the early writers about Chiron spoke to a diversity of topics that were already part of the cultural zeitgeist, at least in the Western world: hands-on healing including chiropractic care, advents in individual and group therapy, personal growth (often cast as self-help), spiritual consciousness, and what some call “shamanic” practice.

As David Roell of the Astrology Center of America bookstore said, “Chiron was a stand-in for the Christ, and everyone knew it.”

All new discoveries of planets manifest as signs of the times. They represent themes and events of their discovery era, as well as surfacing issues and subject matter that might have been missed.

If you're curious about how a newly-discovered planet gets its meaning, I've covered that in a detailed article called [Behind the Veil](#), originally from *The Mountain Astrologer*. In summary, it's a combination of the mythology of the name, the discovery chart, the scientific elements of the orbit, and then a process of astrologers gaining experience with the new planet with client charts and those of world events. This is all covered in [Behind The Veil](#).

The Chiron-Eris Conjunction: 1970s Flashback

Chiron is now in Aries, and is forming a conjunction to Eris in Aries. I will have more to say about this meeting next week. However, to get you started: Eris is currently the single most important factor describing the digital crisis. We saw that manifest with Donald Trump ruling the nation by Twitter during the 2016 presidential campaign. This was not about Trump or Twitter: it was about what has happened to society under the influence of digital conditions.

Also, because Eris spends 130 years in Aries and Chiron takes just 50 years to orbit the Sun, we have experience with a Chiron-Eris conjunction in Aries. That happened in 1971 and 1972, and defines what we think of as the pre-disco 1970s — that is to say, the activist 1970s, which most people mistake for the 1960s. It was an exciting and chaotic time, no doubt.

Chiron in Aries generally, and Chiron conjunct Eris in particular, arrived with the birth of radical identity politics. The somewhat unified anti-Vietnam War movement fragmented into the student movement, the environmental movement and Earth Day, gay "liberation," women's "liberation," the New Age, EST (a popular self-actualization training program, seen by some as a cult), the rise of other cults such as the Hare Krishnas, Black power, Latino rights, a radical Puerto Rican rights movement called the FALN, the American Indian Movement (AIM, its official name), the back-to-the-land movement (not really a movement, but called one),

the intentional community movement, the Deadheads, and a diversity of radical organizations like The Weathermen.

It was a rather groovy and chaotic time for “doing your thing.” Lots of people were pinning on buttons, including the one that says “Wearing Buttons is Not Enough.” Many thought that saying “Question Authority” was doing so.

And mixed in with this glorious extravaganza was the discovery of the Watergate break-in in 1972 (Richard Nixon, doing his thing) followed by the U.S. pulling out of Vietnam less than a year later. Then came the resignation of Nixon in the summer of 1974. So this is one heck of an aspect: it’s a social accelerant.

And this was all happening before you could choose from among 300 billion combinations of Starbucks ingredients (mathematical true fact, which is a reflection of the digital environment, as is a million planets in the solar system).

We are now going into this conjunction in a ramped-up and concentrated form, with most of life being lived on the LSD trip of digital technology. At the same time, there will be another significant and rare conjunction in Aries: that of Saturn and Neptune — both conjunctions happen together. We are entering a very special moment.

The Relationship Between Chiron and Virgo

With the Sun now in Virgo, let’s cover one last theme for today. Astrologers using Chiron all questioned what sign it might rule. This was also a discussion for the modern planets Uranus, Pluto and Neptune, as well as the first four asteroids. There has been plenty of consternation and debate along the way.

My discussion here will be theoretical, and thematic. Some technical references are necessary. If you identify as Virgo, I would refer you to my Virgo readings for personal information.

It's a little different from the collective and the archetypal elements of the discussion. Also, my whole astrological project infused with and informed by the best work on Chiron, including my own personal research.

Regarding new planets and what they may rule, Table of Essential Dignities (dating to the first century CE) has the planetary sign rulerships covered, and thereby provides a set of guidelines for reading horary, mundane and electional astrology*. These require careful assignments of classical rulerships to signs associated with houses in any given chart.

I prefer to not claim that new discoveries rule any sign, since it would not be true. I think of the associations between new discoveries and the astrological signs as affinities and resonances. If an astrologer is very consistent, the modern planets can be used for these forms of technical astrology.

In the classical system, dating to antiquity, Mercury rules Virgo, and no planet is exalted there.

Chiron was trained in medicine by his stepfather Apollo, and in turn trained Asclepius, the god of medicine, in the medical arts. He was a teacher of both warfare and battlefield medical arts, and raised a generation of Greek heroes of the classical age. As a physician, that means he taught battlefield medicine. More than anything, he was a mentor, which is a central theme of Chiron, whatever the topic.

With these elements we have a diversity of connections to Virgo and the 6th house, which all center around themes of service, the military, healing practice and teaching. This presents a strong association between Virgo and the related 6th house.

That said, many astrologers early on the case noted the themes of Chiron related to Sagittarius. This sign depicts a hunter or centaur, depending on one's mythological source. There's also a

centaur seen in the constellation Centaurus, which is where the mythological figure Chiron went when he ascended.

As Barbara Hand Clow put it succinctly, Virgo is about the healing mission of Chiron; Sagittarius is the spiritual quest.

An Extended Era of Chiron

We are now in an extended era of enhanced Chiron activity. That means intensity, and in Aries, it means that this is a time of awakening. This will be happening in a time of unprecedented social upheaval.

If you think back to what was happening in the early- to mid-1970s, that's merely a sample of what is likely to occur under the dual conjunctions of Chiron to Eris and Saturn to Neptune. And consider that the world that will experience these events is now split between the former "real world" of the physical and the mirage of the digital, which for many is the most meaningful point of contact with life outside themselves.

We are now in a crisis of disembodiment. That is another way to say that much of what society is doing is hallucinating itself into a control drama of epic proportions. Chiron has a way of focusing the issues, and bringing out everything unlike itself.

There is no predicting here. But we don't need to merely come along for the ride. In the spirit of Chiron, we have two elements to consider: the healing mission and the spiritual quest.

Chiron also has a relationship to Taurus, the sign where it was discovered. That's about staying in your body, if you want one. It's about the wisdom of the body, and integrating your physical existence with your emotional and mental states of being.

Chart Data:

Transits of Mar 19, 2026

March 19, 2026

7:07:16 AM EDT

Kingston, NY

74W0041N56

(Third and last conjunction of Chiron and Eris)

*PS — Horary astrology is pure divinatory astrology, often pertaining to a question. Electional astrology is creating a chart for a specific purpose, like starting a company or getting married. Mundane astrology is what you see me doing at Planet Waves, which is reading the charts of world events. They all follow similar classical rules.

The Chiron-Eris Connection

Planet Waves

September 25, 2025

[Link to Original](#)

Most people want astrology to tell them when they're going to get rich, when they're going to get laid, and when they're going to die. I'm sorry but I cannot help with any of those questions today; for an extra fee, catch me next week.

But today I can tell you something about the current conjunction of Chiron and Eris that it would seem has not broken the surface of mainstream or even alt astrology. I'm not surprised; this is not an easy event to read. It involves two slow-moving planets, small but meaningful, that are setting the tone of our time in history.

The conjunction takes place on Oct. 8, the second in a cluster of three (this is true of most outer-planet conjunctions). In this cluster, the first happened May 27 and the last one will be March 19, 2026. If you want to understand the crisis the planet is in, which is mostly a crisis of consciousness, this is the aspect to study.

An Era-Defining, Generational Event

An event like this defines an era; historically, I see evidence of this influence being in effect back at least five years and potentially back to 2018. With slow-moving outer planet events, we are talking about generational astrology that defines an era, and moreover, a time frame with events that define an era.

Something like this last happened in 1971-72 (in Aries, like today), when Chiron and Eris formed their most recent conjunction. This was really the astrology of what we think of as the late 1960s and early 1970s (the early '60s were described by the Uranus-Pluto-Chiron pattern from Virgo to Pisces).

Before that we have to go back to 1917-1918 (Chiron conjunct Eris in Pisces), and then to 1863-1864 (also in Pisces). If you know history, you know that these are the dates of all-consuming wars: the peak of Vietnam, U.S. involvement in World War I, and the U.S. War Between the States (or Civil War).

What's different about now is that for the first time, the conjunction is happening consciously — that is, we know about it. All the previous ones were before either planet was discovered. Astrologers had no way to know about their existence, and with extremely rare exceptions more than a century ago, do not attempt to infer the presence of unknown planets.

The World Information War, or WW III

We are now in another war — the World Information War, which is WW III. In this unusual uproar, there's no distinction between civilian and military combatants; between adults and children; between corporate and individual actors; or between nationalities. This is an all-in kind of war, involving everyone, described by the turmoil of Eris in Aries.

Yet this war is about more than external conflict. It is the result of personhood falling through the floor of the digital environment. The real crisis is within consciousness, and for those who can feel it, the current moment is calling for awareness about how to get out of that conflict. Many other people will be dragged in deeper; some will stay in a state of perpetual confusion; and others will get their bearings and commit to a healing process, both personal and social.

Together, Chiron and Eris offer a sense of dawning reality that can potentially counter the inner chaos and propaganda fog

machine that's blowing a hurricane of smoke, smog and fog out of the Neptune in Aries aspect pattern (this is another matter that I'll come back to as my work on the annual edition develops).

Studying Chiron and Eris, we can be aware of the prevailing state of chaos and personal agitation, and disorientation that spans from the personal to the collective. You may have read this quote in previous articles, quoted from an email sent to me by Eric McLuhan, Marshall's son:

"The body is everywhere assaulted by all of our new media, a state which has resulted in deep disorientation of intellect and destabilization of culture throughout the world. In the age of disembodied communication, the meaning and significance and experience of the body is utterly transformed and distorted."

This is the nature of Eris in Aries. Chiron is trying to get our attention to awaken us from this evolving disaster before it consumes everyone and everything.

The Two Most Important Planetary Discoveries Since Pluto

To tell you what these planets are about, I have to provide a little history. It's my view that Chiron and Eris are the two most significant additions to astrology since Pluto. You may remember that the naming and categorization of Eris was the factor that got Pluto demoted to alleged non-planet way back in 2006.

Under the current model, our solar system contains eight planets and more than one million known minor planets. (They orbit our Sun, not other stars.) A lot of these are fast-moving asteroids; but a good few others are slow-movers and have significant influence for those who know what to look and feel for. They come in a variety of categories you may have heard of, such as Kuiper objects or centaurs.

Pluto, a Kuiper object that's now considered minor planet "(134340) Pluto," was discovered in 1930 and for a long time was the frontier of astrology and the solar system. Notably, it took

quite a while (as in several decades after its discovery) to catch on, and today few would consider casting a chart without it. It was not really shown any respect until the late 1970s. Astrologers are often set in their ways, they are slow to adapt, and don't like to confront new influences in their own natal charts.

Pluto is an unusual cluster of six little objects all orbiting a common center of gravity. It's sometimes called the Pluto-Charon binary system. This system goes around the Sun in 248 years. Read carefully: Charon, not Chiron, which is something else.

Chiron is Definitely Something Else

In 1977, Chiron was discovered, and over time, this discovery changed our concept of astrology. Really a massive comet nucleus, Chiron has an approximately 51-year orbit, and it was (for a short while) the harbinger of a spiritual and healing approach to astrology. While this didn't really catch on, Chiron has had a subtle influence rather than overt one.

Why didn't it catch on? First, Chiron is about the serious business of healing. In a society addicted to trauma, healing isn't any fun. It is difficult and it takes a while and most people don't bother until they are backed into a corner or hit bottom. Most astrologers don't want to talk about this in YouTubes or even in articles. New Moon meditations are much more popular.

Just as Chiron was gaining some influence, a traditional/medieval astrology took hold, and it openly eschews the new influences. It's easy to see why.

Healing requires embracing commitments that Chiron describes: to self-awareness, personal actualization and devotion to truth. It represents a healing journey and also one of awakening. If you hear someone say that Chiron is the 'wounded healer', you can be pretty sure they don't have much experience.

Chiron Shows Up at Personal Crisis Points

While Chiron represents the healing process, in my experience it shows up at personal crisis points, and calls for raising awareness about the necessities of growth. Some of these crisis points are medical situations, but not usually. Rather, you will see Chiron present at important life transitions of all kinds.

Chiron also represents standing out and apart. Its first keyword was 'maverick', assigned by its discoverer to describe its hybrid of comet, asteroid and planet. Named for the first centaur of Greek mythology, Chiron of mythological fame is part horse and part human. Therefore, it represents a connection to our animal nature and four feet making contact with the Earth.

My most basic delineation of Chiron in the natal chart is that it represents one's state of awareness. I realize this is not a dramatic explanation. But once you learn the times when Chiron was active in your life, it can be a jaw-dropping experience.

Eris was Named for the Goddess of Chaos

Eris is a newer discovery. It's a binary system (two orbiting planets) currently far, far from the Sun — three times further than Pluto. It goes around our Sun in 557 years (this number keeps getting adjusted by a few years plus or minus). Eris is currently about 97 times the Earth-Sun distance from the Sun.

Eris first entered Aries in June 1922, and took until 1927 to fully transition out of Pisces. Eris in Aries arrives with the age of broadcast mass media (radio, in particular), and spans into the digital and A.I. eras of the internet. Eris will make it to Taurus to stay in 2048, so it spends more than 130 years in Aries. This is all highly unusual behavior for a planet, and most astrologers have no idea what to do with it.

Chad Trujillo, one of the discoverers, told me shortly after the naming that the discovery team selected the name Eris because she's the goddess of discord and the world is currently a mess.

She is also described as the goddess of strife and war. But we might ask what all this mayhem, in our time, is about.

When I began delineating Eris in 2005, before it was named, it seemed to be a postmodern influence: that is, describing not just a divided world, but a fragmented sense of inner existence, time seeming to occur simultaneously or being out of whack, and little or nothing happening in a predictable order. Postmodern means nothing 'makes sense' in the usual inflection of that term.

In short, postmodern is the electrical world, and for us today, the digital world.

Facets and Fragments of Self

In January 2007, I published a short book called *Eris: Facets and Fragments of Self*. Early on, I was unknowingly onto what would become my primary theory of Eris in our era: that it represents what happens to people when exposed to electrical media. Here is what I published at the time:

Notably, our relationship to technology is a crucial factor in postmodern existence. As philosopher Marshall McLuhan suggested of broadcast media [actually, of all human tools], we create it, then it creates us. This constant revision, co-creation and morphing relationship to the technology we surround ourselves with, or that is imposed on us, is associated with a sense of self that has no fixed point of reference, and in many ways is experienced as having no solid ground to stand on.

Nearly twenty years on, I'm impressed that I got that right. This was 10 years before I began my in-depth study of Dr. McLuhan's work in 2016 with his grandson Andrew. My original Eris essay describes the notion of digital disembodiment, or loss of self:

We live in a time when many of us have an 'online self' and a 'real world self' (whether we intended this or not, and whether we notice or not). Sometimes we're more or less successful at constituting an ego identity or even a soul presence in

cyberspace. How we integrate these two (or more) identities, and integrating our relationships to the people we know from either of them, is an ongoing challenge. It's also an exciting opportunity for human interrelation. It's constantly pushing us to redefine what a 'self' really is, and to see ourselves from two or more perspectives.

I must say, I did not see what was coming, in terms of the total digital takeover of all identity and also the advent of generative A.I. taking over thought itself.

It's Now Much Worse Than This

At the time I wrote that, in 2006, the internet was not as pervasive as it is today. People went to it, and did not carry it around everywhere. There was no social media, there were no 'smart' phones, therefore no apps. There were no appliances (such as alarm systems or air conditioners) connected to the internet. There were barely any blogs. There was no Uber or GrubHub and Amazon was a fancy bookstore.

This is hard to imagine today, when nearly everyone and everything is online 24/7/365. It's fair to say that most people no longer are aware of a 'real world self'.

The internet is an extension of the central nervous system of everyone on the planet. We are now all connected not by apps or email but rather by consciousness itself, induced by digital technology. We are all within one another's energy fields. We are swimming in one another's personal information, photographs, memories, and communications. This is why we live in a world where privacy is not even a valid concept.

Through this interwoven central nervous system, we exist as an enormous tribe, where we are easily herded by people with access to massive numbers of users. Often these same people can manipulate events, which go 'viral' and take over the entire digital consciousness field. Even if all you read are your garden club emails, you can still feel it.

To live like this is very intense — we really have no idea how intense — it cannot be sustained, and what happens is that many people try to pull back or numb out. Others just get overwhelmed and choose to tune out. Others get hopped up on rage, which is a natural extension of being disembodied and disconnected from themselves. Anger and attack are poor attempts to self-actualize. The result is the digital fog, or haze, or in truth, global crisis.

Eris is Below the Level of Normal Perception

This condition mostly exists below the level of perception. We only notice it at certain specific times, and never entirely. You don't notice how dependent you are on electricity until the power goes out. A fish probably does not think much about water until it's beached or flopping on the deck of a boat. And even then it may lack a concept for 'water'.

There is a denial factor, but the real problem is that the environment is always invisible and subliminal. When I use the word 'environmental' this is what I mean. The fancy word for this is ubiquitous.

In a similar way, we lack a concept for the condition we are in. Let's call it Eris in Aries. It is difficult for many people to get away from the internet, and yet we take it with us because we have been so conditioned by it. So 'it' has become us — our state of mind. Whether the digital haze is about withdrawal, induced stupidity, confusion or polarized rage, it amounts to the same disconnect from yourself.

I realize you will not find one other astrologer who delineates Eris as "digital disembodiment, stupidity, confusion or polarized rage," though this is the result of nearly 20 years of work on the issue. This includes ongoing, nonstop investigation into the influence of digital technology on people.

And I've been studying charts of major advances in digital technology — and the people who push it. Eris is prominent in every chart. Right away, we noticed that both Bill Gates

(cofounder of Microsoft) and Steve Jobs (cofounder of Apple) both have the Moon conjunct Eris. I could give hundreds of examples; if you're curious, check my video on [the astrology of A.I.](#)

Chiron, Making the Invisible Visible

Now enter Chiron. From other contexts, we know that Chiron is a kind of grease and fog cutter. Its presence arrives as an organizing principle, which at first calls attention to the problem of chaos and disorder.

Chiron is also an individuating influence, and this is creating tension with the tribal and collectivizing influence of Eris. Remember that what I'm calling Eris, and in particular Eris in Aries, is driven by electrical and electronic technology. The result is not an organic form of tribes but previously civilized people forgetting who they are and gathering with others, often based on some perceived common enemy.

Said another way, an electrical or Eris tribe typically defines its existence by what it's against. Then there are the false 'communities', like tow truck drivers everywhere. Then there are various 'movements' that spring up every five minutes. All of this is digital mirage. For most people it exists below the level of perception.

Chiron represents a threshold of liminality, the point at which we may become aware of our environment — whether inner or outer. Usually, this happens in a crisis. If there is no crisis, tuning into the environment can, itself, be a critical moment. Therefore, beware of panic.

What Was in the Punch?

Because the environment is invisible and tends to act invisibly, it's not really studied; it's largely ignored. People tend to be obsessed by the figure they are staring at. Though it may seem to exist in the background, what I call the ground field — the background — is the most influential thing in our lives. And by

that, I also mean the background mood or vibe and the inner state of most people, which has left us with no conventional moorings or reference points.

Chiron is calling attention to these factors. For many it will feel like a rude awakening, to all they have neglected or abandoned. It's one thing to be driving around aimlessly but with perfect confidence. Then you might get to that moment where you determine that you're lost. And that is the necessary first step to finding yourself. Similarly, we exist in a state of confusion that we don't really understand and have not admitted to.

It may seem like a paradox to understand confusion. But think of it this way. Imagine you've gone to a party and you start to feel really weird. At some point you might ask what was in the punch. Or you might say, "Where am I?" For our society, neither has happened yet.

Chiron Meets Eris: The Digital Crisis

Planet Waves

October 2, 2025

[Link to Original](#)

This essay adds additional details about the forthcoming Chiron-Eris conjunction, how it describes the mental and physical effects of digital conditions, working with Chiron transits, the concept of a healing crisis, eight states of being associated with digital over-exposure, and what to do about this situation. It's based on my work with clients since 1995 using a Chiron-centered astrology process.

Chiron is very active in all of our lives right now. Associated with healing, Chiron is also about the healing crisis: the eruption of events that indicate a problem, and which strive to call attention to the problem.

Specifically, we are in the peak of the rare Chiron-Eris conjunction. Last week I [described the archetypal elements](#) of this alignment, which happens every few generations. To sum up, ultra slow-mover Eris in Aries, which began in 1922, represents the destabilization of personhood associated with the electrical mass communication age.

This era spans from commercial radio in the early 1920s through iconic, scratchy-image television, high-definition TV and into the digital age and the current GPT (generative A.I. or deep fake) stage. Living through this era has been profoundly destabilizing, and it has now reached a point of frenzy. It's why the world is so

insane right now — and why the madness arrives on a twice-daily basis.

Chiron, now meeting with Eris, represents an ordering principle. It represents a healing process that is guided by awareness. Individualistic and distinctive, those things identified with Chiron tend to stand out because they are aware, learning and growing.

Combining the two influences creates a lot of tension. It can feel like the struggle to awaken or the struggle to extinguish those who are awakening. It is not a comfortable inner state, or state of the world. It's what we are experiencing personally and collectively right now.

Mental Collapse and Moral Anarchy

Society is in collapse because our mental framework is in collapse. This happens periodically and always comes with a kind of moral anarchy. You may think your angst and difficulty focusing are the result of all you're seeing outside you. I'm saying that the problem is arising from an inner condition; which is our collective psychological and spiritual condition as we try to exist in this environment.

This crisis is a subset of the wider history of electricity, which moves human experience to the speed of light — something totally unnatural and which collapses space and time. Electrical technology in any form drives people out of their bodies, which means out of 3D awareness, which means out of their minds. This has many effects, which we're witnessing daily.

The good news is that individual choice matters. There is no mass awakening without individual decisions to do so. You do not need a mass awakening; you need to wake up to who you are and why you are here. That in turn will have you embarking on a healing process. Once you're there, as a conscious daily act, you will encounter other people on a similar journey and then perhaps you will have company.

Tribalized State of Being Met by Individuality

The factors that Eris represents regress humans back to an artificial tribalized state. I say artificial because we do not have real tribes in Western society. We have a state of mind that drives the *herd mentality*, where people are manipulated and turned to aggression quickly and easily.

This is mass consciousness, not group consciousness. Groups are groups of individuals. We have very few of those today, since genuine group identity is equally under assault by digital conditions.

Individuality, privacy, inner awareness and distinct identity have been washed out to the point where most people not only have no clue who they are, but do not know that they don't know. The result is the violence, aggression, coldness, meanness and general sense of chaos that we are experiencing. Later in this article I will describe eight such states of being.

Chiron is a polar opposite influence. It represents an organizing principle. It's about individuality, standing apart from the herd, and the focusing of attention and awareness. The problem is that in a diseased state, the first thing Chiron is going to do is reveal the extent of the problem, and potentially, the nature of the solution. Eris blurs and distorts; Chiron pulls focus and demands specific points of documentation and ultimately of action.

Chiron also represents the holistic principle. It's about seeing the whole picture. It is amazing that you cannot find any commentary exploring the whole picture of digital conditions anywhere outside of Planet Waves. If there is serious discussion of Chiron conjunct Eris anywhere in the astrology sphere, please point it out to me.

Chiron Transits are Critical Moments for Most People

I've listened in detail to the lifetime Chiron transits of countless hundreds of my clients. When Chiron activates the chart, there is a critical moment, a crisis point, a juncture or an eruption of

circumstances. It has a 50-year cycle. Because the orbit is so elliptical, events that happen to one generation at age 7 happen to the preceding generation at around age 22. Chiron is an important factor in understanding various forms of generation gap.

Each chart has to be carefully evaluated, but one thing is almost certain: when Chiron is active, there will be a result. This can be at any age (Chiron conjunct Sun, Moon or ascendant). Or it can be at specific times in Chiron's cycle, which you can [study here](#).

Chiron is now most active in the charts of people born around 1951-1955; 1973-1976; 1988-1991; 1995-1997; and 2002-2004. Some will be feeling this more than others. The transits peak at different times for those born with any specific sign placement. There will be important before-and-after points. These ranges of years work as one system and you may recognize others in the pattern as significant in your growth.

Saturn and Uranus Transits are Chiron-Like

There are other points of development. The Saturn return at about age 29, the Uranian opposition at about age 42, and the second Saturn return at about age 58, are all Chiron-like events. The resulting patterns are all highly individual and you don't know what's going on until you study the whole chart and learn your transit pattern.

Right now, society itself is in a sweeping, all-encompassing Chiron transit. While there have been similar events, there has been nothing of this magnitude since 1971-1972, at the peak of the television era.

A kind of "second Sixties," this era came with its own crises and in particular, the birth of the identity politics that is now consuming social lives. But in our time we have something underlying that: the invisible ground of the all-encompassing digital environment.

I am amazed that this is not being studied or even discussed as one all-encompassing phenomenon. It is so high, so deep and so wide that most people cannot see it. (If the internet ever goes out, we will definitely see it.)

Forms of the Digital Trance — A Few Samples

Individual results may vary, but here are several forms of the digital trance, which will often occur in combination. They often involve some form of living from drama to drama, and these usually originate in what is falsely termed the news or the public realm. There is no way not to pay attention to 'the news' as nearly everyone has one or more social media feeds where the issues will come up in distorted form.

People are experiencing many issues in their 'private' and family lives, not accounting for decades of digital overexposure. Many think it's normal to live this way because they know nothing else. It is in no way normal to be in a constant state of crisis. Here are some forms this may take:

1. Emotional polarization, especially rage. Then there is "love him or hate him," various forms of derangement syndrome, cultish admiration of an ego figure, and belief that one guy is perfect and the other is evil; any form of "if I believe it, it's true," and any form of systemic bias (all men are perpetrators and all women are victims, all immigrants are evil, one political party is good and the other is bad, etc.) It's all the same thing.

2. Confusion, which means getting caught in the chaos and the conflicting versions of events. Usually this is a kind of refuge. The confused person does not need to commit to anything. It's perfect. This can include "not knowing what to believe anymore," or conspiracy theorizing (which is fictionalizing beyond scope of the available facts, or ignoring the facts). The thing disordered here is the mind, even despite the chaotic nature of events. There is a near-total lack of applied logic or pattern recognition.

3. Withdrawal and despondency, marked by a sense that all potential is gone and the future does not exist. It's not worth making any effort because everything is for nothing. This can involve various dissociated states of being.

4. Paranoia mostly affects the hard core 'netizens' who spend their late nights going down what they term 'rabbit holes' and seeing all the supposed connections and discovering how it's all one big conspiracy — against them. These people are convinced they're the real-deal investigative reporters watching Bitchute videos and waiting for what Q will 'drop' on them next. It does not matter whether these things are 'true' or not. The main distinction is you cannot tell either way, and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it. But you feel powerful because you're allegedly 'in the know' and everyone else is in the dark.

Lack of Trust in Existence

5. Total lack of trust in existence is more widespread. This is the predictable result of any of the above four scenarios. You cannot be lied to over and over again to the point where you trust no public institution and still easily have faith in the people around you. These matters must be raised to awareness before they can be addressed.

6. A sense of loneliness and isolation that you've never felt before, as if you live in a world without people, or nobody is the same as they used to be. This can include betrayals and misunderstandings that never seem to stop.

7. The inability or refusal to follow logic; the abandonment of acquired learning. This is critical and very difficult to spot. Logic is important right now because it's a pattern recognition tool. Logic is a ruler, essential if you want to know the accurate measurements of an argument.

Digital conditions swallow acquired knowledge. "Everything you were told is a lie" is a meme in our era, and while this might feel good for a second, it does not prevent you from being lied to by

the person profiting from telling you there were no dinosaurs or that the world is flat. Discernment requires logic, pattern recognition and the use of acquired knowledge. It starts with *believing nothing*.

Nothing is Funny or Sexy

8. Extinguished sense of humor. Nothing is funny; everything is offensive. This is part of emotional calcification and the inability to sense the deeper situation that might be driving all of the above conditions.

9. Lack of interest in sex. Sexual imagery and political banter have taken the place of actual human contact. The electronic world lacks sex and gender because it is disembodied. Then we bring that same sexless, genderless experience back to 3D space. If you find yourself with little to no interest in sex, are repulsed or blatantly disgusted by it, or are raging at the opposite sex, or use your sexuality for financial or social leverage, you're trying to live your digital life in the physical world.

10. Crisis of executive function, i.e., you struggle to hold your life together or to make decisions. Also called "ADHD," this is a key element of being entrapped in digital consciousness.

The Solution is Individual. It Has to Be.

Many are "waiting for people to wake up." This is a ridiculous principle. Your consciousness originates with you; you have the option to pay attention or not; to go with the crowd or not.

You are making this decision every hour of every day. When someone tells you to stick a needle in your arm and inject some mystery juice, why do you do it, or why not?

You choose every time you answer a question or make a statement or decide how to relate to the people around you — more or less honestly, for example. You might be more or less inclined to do what they do because you'll be more acceptable.

This is where the tire grips the highway, which is the same place where it skids.

There is no solution in distancing yourself from the internet. Yes, you obviously need things that you love to do in the physical world (which could start with making your own food, addressing one of the great travesties of digital existence). Yet equally important is what you do when you're relating to the digital world.

Where is Your Awareness Located?

Do you have real friendships here, by which I mean time-tested friends? Are you creating or consuming? Do you make finished work product, or share what someone else has done?

What is your state of mind when you're here? Do you respond to things that don't merely trigger you? Or are you capable of being thoughtful and reflective?

Equally important is: do you treat people in the physical world like they are figments of the digital realm, or do you treat them as human beings? Do you treat those you know in the digital realm like robots, or like people?

Digital existence is the exercise of turning a nightmare into a lucid dream, where you start to make decisions about what you do with yourself, your time and your investment of consciousness.

And who are you in the midst of all of this? Where is your consciousness located? Is it inside your body, or outside?

Chiron Conjunct Eris: A Book About Men

Planet Waves

October 9, 2025

[Link to Original](#)

"As deep drinketh the goose as the gander."

— 1562 book of English proverbs.

No discussion of Chiron conjunct Eris in Aries would be complete without a discussion of masculinity and by extension, men.

The human universe as we know it (and probably much else) is held up by the balance of the feminine and the masculine; what in the East is called Yin-Yang. Without balance, there is chaos. We have a lot of that lately and it's not difficult to see where yin and yang are out of balance. It seems there is a standoff between them.

Aries is the first sign of the zodiac and represents the ignition system of the physical world. Aries is also the sign of both self, and self-concept; it is where we find much related to 'I am'. Where Aries lands in your chart is where you're likely to be most comfortable expressing yourself — or where it is most necessary. This is integral to my work writing Sun sign columns and doing extended readings.

This is true in both individual and collective astrology, though 'self' is a complex pattern distributed throughout the chart. But

you might say it finds a home or point of origin in Aries. In other words, to be a 'self' requires some aggression.

The Seat of Masculinity

Aries, ruled by Mars and with the Sun exalted there, is also the seat of masculinity. Named for the Roman god of war, it is the most 'yang' sign. Its neighboring signs Pisces and Taurus vie for the most 'yin', representing the feminine principle in its essence. Yin is inherently fertile, flexible and receptive.

Aries and its ruler Mars (sometimes called Ares) also represent various shades of initiative, motivation, desire, assertion, aggression and anger. None of these themes are limited to one sex or the other.

There's a lot happening in Aries right now. For the past two weeks, I've been focusing on the Chiron-Eris conjunction, currently the main event. A conjunction happens when two planets are in the same place. It represents events at the ending of one cycle and the beginning of another. This cycle last reset in 1971-1972.

With this alignment in Aries, we have available many themes and issues related to the masculine force. This is a necessary element of the human collective, disparaged and degraded as it is today. It is socially acceptable to mock both men and masculinity to a degree that appalls me when I see it spread on the pages of somewhere like The New York Times.

Chiron is calling for a time of healing for the masculine. Eris represents the influx of chaos, subversion, covert aggression, disruption and fragmenting. Chiron, the noblest of masculine influences in astrology, is the whole-making or holistic principle, which is seeking to bring order to the chaos and healing to all of its negative effects.

First, an Environmental Issue:
We Live Within a Collective Nervous System

All of the effects we see in society emerge from a deeper cause created by what I call the ground field, or the environment.

We now live in a kind of collective nervous system created by electronic technology. We exist simultaneously within one another's consciousness as opposed to apart from one another. Under digital conditions, there is no longer private identity and there are no longer truly private spaces. This has led to a state of psychic disruption and confusion affecting nearly everyone — and which is also a convenient hedge against taking responsibility for one's life.

Acceleration of this condition has been so subtle (disguised as things like iPhone marketing) that few people noticed it happening. This is the Eris element: subversive, chaotic, and disruptive. This is why everyone is feeling so stressed and agitated. There really is nowhere to retreat and no inner sanctum to retreat into.

The Chiron-Eris conjunction describes something about the destabilization of both self and society, coming from the environment. It's also a society-wide call, to every individual, to help restore some stability and get a grip on the historic process. Finally, it's an open invitation to the self-actualization and maturity that would make that possible. And part of this is about re-learning gender differentiation.

The Eris element in the conjunction describes the disruption to the psychic environment and destabilization of self, individuality, identity, sexual identity and privacy. It's subversive and disruptive and operating below the level of awareness. Its effects go back more than 100 years.

The much newer Chiron element (which goes back to 2018) is a focusing principle that is about discovering inner awareness,

noticing personal distinction and healing from the chaotic quality of our times.

Astrology is not causing this. Astrology is indicative of a wider situation in society; it's pointing out something that we need to notice. Think of it like a speedometer in a car. It does not make the car go a certain speed; it tells you how fast the car is going.

Digital: A Dimension with Neither Sex Nor Gender

Before I get into certain issues related to maleness and femaleness, let's work with a basic concept. We spend most of our time in the digital realm, without our bodies. Bodies seem to be holding the phone or typing at the computer, or sitting in front of a camera, but we are projected across space without our bodies.

In cyber space, there are no bodies and therefore no sex and no gender. There are no hormones, gonads, or anything. Nobody ever had 'cyber sex'. Digital is a nonphysical, artificial astral realm.

When we return our awareness to physical space, we bring back that conditioning. You might say, so what? Well, we need a way to account for the gender dysphoria problem that is not about what propaganda about 46 genders that a kid reads about in a school book. When people spend their lives in an environment without sex or gender, that would seem to be the perfect example of something leading to confusion experienced emotionally and physically.

Additionally, all people and critters are swimming in endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Levels started to mount after World War II with the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, the industrial chemical PCBs, plus many herbicides and pesticides and their related byproducts dioxins and furans.

Though DDT and PCBs were mostly banned, we live with the toxic residue; and now we have PFAS and all of its cousins. Others in the PFAS group include PFOA, PFOS, PFNA among thousands of

other related substances. This stuff comes in every bite of food, from plastics, from your frying pan and your popcorn maker and shampoo and conditioner.

All of these substances are gender-disrupting and most of them are specifically feminizing. In one study, it was determined that infants whose mothers were exposed to PCBs were born with smaller penises. Today's men have half the sperm count and semen volume of our grandfathers. It is no wonder why. But nobody asks about the psychic effect of these chemicals. We live not just with gender dysphoria in the sense of a teenager thinking he was 'born in the wrong body' but also in a terrible standoff between men and women.

This kind of subversive disruption of the environment is described perfectly by Eris. But this is not just about the physical environment; the bottom line effect is on the psychic and internal hormonal environment. That means how we feel and how we think.

A Crisis of Men, Boys and Masculinity

Let's frame this today as describing a crisis of maleness or masculinity that is disrupting the lives of men and boys — and by extension, everyone else. You can see this everywhere from the casual use of the term 'toxic masculinity' (apparently the only kind there is), to the numerous documented problems that men face in greater numbers, from social alienation to extremely high rates of suicide and incarceration.

These problems also impact women, who at the moment seem to have a lot to say about men (by which I mean complaints).

If one asserts that men and boys are in crisis, many people respond that such is not possible since men run everything and they have only themselves to blame. Some will laugh at you and some will say they are getting what they deserve. Others would say this is a necessary part of ensuring equality: taking male-bodied creatures down a few notches is the thing we need the

most. If more men apply to engineering school, for some reason that needs to be 'fixed'.

At the same time, men are assailed as emotionally unavailable, broken, wounded and antisocial. (Those sound like elements of a crisis, so there is a contradiction if the same person says there is no crisis of masculinity.)

None of the people claiming there are no issues would be men. Men know about the problems we face, even if many have not articulated them. Few claiming there are no issues would be the mothers of boys or young men. They also know about the problems because they must address them directly.

Boys Need to Be Boys

We might ask about the struggles that boys are facing, including the alleged condition ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder, a false notion that cannot be sustained by any scientific means; it's a matter of opinion). Many are on mood-altering drugs (twice as many boys are on Ritalin than girls; twice as many girls take antidepressants, all of them permanently altering their brains during formative years).

I hear my clients talking about how withdrawn many teenage boys are, that they have no interest in life, no interest in girls, and how they cannot find words to express themselves. This is the kind of 'toxic masculinity' that is not defined — *maleness turned inward on itself*.

Maybe this situation has something to do with boys not being allowed to be themselves, to express their energy, to be physically aggressive. Boys have testosterone. This is about action. They will compete and fight with one another. That's fine; it's what they do. Let them work it out. Fighting is not "bullying." That is something else — done to and by both boys and girls.

Women and girls have far less testosterone and much more estrogen and are not inside the reality that boys experience; how would they know how this feels?

Maybe putting boys in front of gaming consoles for most of their childhood is making them unwell. Why the girls are depressed is another matter; depression usually masks anger and conceals the lack of emotional self-expression.

Maybe there's a problem with nearly all children being raised by women, having only women teachers, and expecting to be helped by women therapists. I wonder how it is that women can complain about boys and men when it's the women who raise and educate them, claiming to do a better job than men do. If boys were raised so well, they would be better adapted and happier. I rarely hear a whiff of discussion about how girls need men in their lives, either.

Instead, the struggles of boys and men are blamed on how they are allegedly imperfect creatures, constantly told that the girls and women are better than they are. Then they are accused of being potential rapists and part of the 'patriarchy'. That is a crisis.

Who Defines What a Man Is?

A set of political theories took over gender definitions starting some time in the mid-19th century — in my view, driven by the rapid advents of telegraph, telephone and electricity (you will not find a feminist or an antifeminist anywhere who agrees with me on this).

Yet whatever you may think of various feminist concepts, they have one thing in common: they define a woman as a political entity.

She is not a social being, or a biological being, or a sexual being, or a familial being (such as a mother or wife) but rather she is a political creature *characterized by her relationship to the state, the economy and the taxation department*. This sounds like a government takeover. Under feminist theory, all expressions of sex are also defined as political acts. As Carol Hanisch wrote in the 1960s, "The personal is political." But is that true? And what about privacy? This statement asserts that there is none.

If women are inherently sexual, under the terms of feminism, their sexuality is a commodity. The biggest anti-porn zealots are also the biggest promoters of prostitution.

Obviously we are being presented with a limited concept of what a woman or any person is, dreamed up by people with a political agenda. In my view, the beauty of woman is her full-spectrum nature, and her compatibility with men; and for a great many, her compatibility with men and other women. What people miss is that men also have this capacity, though it only emerges in a trusting environment.

Yet men, under this theory, are also defined as political and economic beings who merely serve the economy or do not; who allegedly commit crimes or owe someone money; and are further described by their supposed problems: allegedly lacking empathy or being unhelpful or being violent or leaving the toilet seat up, or whatever.

Bear in mind, this is also the politicization of sex and gender to the exclusion of all other ways of defining it. Others may exist, but mostly they are banned from discussion. You cannot talk about actual sex in any public forum and most private forums. All you can talk about is the politics of sex. This has had profound implications for society and is another indication of electrically-driven lack of privacy.

An Autonomy Issue

When men seek to define themselves, they are held to be antisocial, and they are disparaged by culture. If men so much as get together to support one another, they are attacked as allegedly being against women. If men define themselves as involuntarily celibate, their alienation is used as a social weapon against them.

A men's rights activist gets all the respect of a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

If they get together for spiritual purposes, they are described as sissy tree-huggers (and enemies of feminism, as they were in the 1990s, when American poet Robert Bly led a short-lived men's movement). If men describe their collective issues, they are attacked as misogynist or being against feminists or women. This sounds like a crisis to me, and any denial of the crisis sounds like a coverup.

Meanwhile, women can stage the [Are Men Obsolete?](#) book and debate series. Public figures can wear "[The Future is Female](#)" tee shirts and somehow this is not only presumed to make sense, and to be cool, but is also supposed to not affect or impact men in any way. And if it does, who cares? Men don't have feelings, right? Books such as [The End of Men and the Rise of Women](#) get editor's pick on Amazon. (I wonder: under this plan, are women going to clone themselves, or will they keep a few men around as sperm donors? Will they be eternally happy fucking silicone dildos? Whose idea was all of this?)

Isn't this a little nihilist? Just a little much? Is anyone asking who benefits? Who is going to put out forest fires and fix the electrical grid after an ice storm?

And what are men supposed to think? Where is the affirmation of our worth? Where the acknowledgement of the contributions, the sacrifice and the suffering of men? Nowhere to be found in public discourse, and extremely rare to find privately. Veterans (cheered on the way to war) are treated like shit upon their return, among many other examples. People say "defund the police," then immediately call the police when they're in trouble.

There would seem to be a serious and unacknowledged issue of personal autonomy for men, as if the only ones who can define themselves as fully human are women. For women who think this is providing them with any kind of advantage, I would differ. You will feel better if you admit that you need the men in your life. You will feel better if you set aside your anger for a moment and acknowledge your gratitude to your father.

I regularly hear women complain that men are emotionally stunted, stupid generally, simplistic, terrible at sex, cut off from their feminine side and/or their intuition, and most lately, either not interested in women, or allegedly too chicken to approach them. Men remember that there can be serious consequences for expressing interest in a woman, whether at work or in the community. Any such interest can be considered de facto harassment, punished as such without a trial.

This is a crisis for both men and women here in peak digital conditions — chaos of sex and gender as we live our lives in the abstract.

Emotional Labor

Much of my guidance comes from Tantric wisdom when it comes to relations between the sexes. It is essential to Tantra that the women are the teachers. This is their sacred honor and duty. It is not very popular, because teaching means setting an example and having tremendous patience with people who seem to know less than you.

I hear complaints coming from all quarters and all generations that there is something wrong with men. I do not hear many people questioning this, or asking how men (largely raised by women) got into this supposedly broken state. In fact there is a very long list of things I don't hear anyone discuss.

And one of them is the responsibility that women, as a part of humanity, have to men. Many would argue that women have absolutely no responsibility. You will not find me accepting this theory any more than I would accept that men have no responsibility. We are all people and we are part of our communities.

One complaint I hear regularly is about men who allegedly have no contact with their feminine side. However to determine the truth rather than perception we would have to begin with an honest assessment of real situations, and an understanding of

what is innately different between men and women, especially in how they experience and express their feelings.

Who exactly is supposed to teach men to be friends with the feminine generally, and their inner feminine, if not women? What kind of example are women setting, so often refusing to *be* in any way feminine? Further if women know so much about sex and men know so little, is it up to them to teach the men? Or do we expect men to learn from their Character.AI porno agent?

In the 1970s women wanted to be paid for doing housework. Today, some want to get paid as 'therapists' for doing uncompensated 'emotional labor' — for being emotionally and morally supportive of their partners. If this includes you, you may be missing something important, something that I think is obvious.

The Source of the Chaos

The universe is held together by feminine and masculine, by yin and yang. Both must exist in a balanced way within people if they are to be remotely sane or able to live well. Yet these natural forces are in chaos now, as is the world we are living in. They have been disrupted by electricity and chemicals and exploited by those with divisive political agendas. Ideology is an opportunistic infection attacking a weak body.

Relations between men and women are at an all time low. People are having so few kids as to point to a population collapse within several decades. Sex is a big item in the media and most people are not doing it, afraid to do it, have no interest or are too confused.

For men and women to relate, there must be trust, and it seems like this fragile human quality is under constant attack.

We might ask the source of the chaos and the imbalance. It's not about ideology. There are some vicious ideologies, and they misinform and disinform people terribly, providing endless rationalizations for entitlement and bad behavior. My assessment

is that ideology is only coming along for the ride. It's the effect of the environment and not the cause. It's like the insane ravings of a person on drugs. The drugs are the issue.

What I think is happening is that we're being fried by electricity and poisoned by chemicals and fake food. Then, a culture grows out of this and we think it's natural.

Solving this problem is about noticing the way we treat ourselves, and by extension, one another.

The world is psychotic right now. The violence is rampant and criminal behavior (of the ruling class) is out of control. People are exhausted. Many are acting in over-the-top inappropriate ways, and selfishly making unreasonable demands on the people around them.

There is just one thing I can tell you for sure. Healing starts with you. I am calling for an honest assessment and mutual respect, not political but humanitarian.

When you deny the humanity of anyone, you deny it in yourself.

All hail the Chiron-Eris conjunction. We'll catch you next time just before the Aries equinox.

2026 Highlights: Chiron Enters Taurus

Planet Waves

October 16, 2025

[Link to Original](#)

If you're looking for something interesting and inspiring of optimism, consider that Chiron is entering Taurus. This last happened March 28, 1977, about seven months before Chiron was discovered that November.

Here's why I think that matters so much. The current sense of a runaway train that we're experiencing, that feeling that everything is out of control, involves the overhead digital environment. That means the overheated mental and emotional environment of separation of consciousness from the body.

By consciousness, I mean sensory awareness and common sense — the sum total of what the senses are telling us about our environment. Part of this is the burnout associated with constant overexposure to digital conditions, such as every facet of life except walking your dog or taking a shower being run by an app (and I'm sure there are apps for those things too).

This is not a 'natural' way to live — but it's how we live. Your grandparents would not understand it, and your parents only think they do.

Projected at the Speed of Light

That's the primary effect of digital, and the current frenzy has several facets. One of them is that our nervous systems are being projected outward and infiltrated at the speed of light all the

time. At first, like every new technology, this was exhilarating. Then it was overwhelming, and that sense of overwhelm has gradually built over decades.

So too has the experience of moving awareness back and forth between seemingly physical space and seemingly astral space. We are beaming up and beaming down all day long, and each time our molecules are rearranged a little.

It's not easy to explain this effect. How would you explain water to a fish? But we feel and experience it as being off-center, as insecurity, uncertainty, instability and a sense of being left behind by existence. The passage of time is out of control in a way that nobody has ever seen or experienced before.

Most people now live their lives on their phones, which is not helping anything. Consider that in one little device, you are walking around with the past 200 years of technological advances, from telegraph, to telephone, record player, to movies, to radio, to television, to the shopping mall, to two-way visual communications, restaurants, and now artificial thought. All in one little box, which is why that box feels like a bomb that's always about to explode.

Chiron from Aries to Taurus

The weird thing about Chiron in Aries, which began this round in 2018, is that its connection with Eris comes with an obsession with tribal identity. To be "tribal" is to be out of a clear "I am." Aries has the concept of "I am," though here this is flipped to its opposite, and it destabilizes the individual. The more tattoos (tribal decorations) someone gets, the less certain they are likely to feel about who they are. And the more the bare essence of the person is hidden.

In Taurus, Chiron emphasizes physical existence and the state of the body. This will be a gradual transition through 2026 and 2027. Too fast would not be helpful, and you may be feeling the first waves of the placement, which always start to come before it

begins. For many, the feeling of being in a body has become unfamiliar and even uncomfortable. The best many can do is feel the instant gratification of GrubHub or an overnight delivery from Amazon.

Taurus is about physical existence, and Chiron is the locus (localization) of awareness. It's going to come right back to physicality. And when we arrive, or awaken, many are going to notice having arrived in a body transformed by the electrical awareness of Uranus in Taurus, which is also ending. While I am reluctant to say "this can only be positive," I don't see a downside, except maybe the discomfort of waking up.

Events Reach Peak Heat, Then Start to Cool Off

Before we get to Chiron in Taurus, a few more heat waves are coming. We're in one of them now, with the peak Chiron-Eris conjunction still radiating energy. This comes to its final crescendo in late winter, in mid-March 2026.

While we're here, remember that the question of embodiment always comes back to the matter of what you're aware of at any given time. It helps to keep a constant pulse on that. Bringing your consciousness to digital conditions almost always is at the cost of physical situational awareness.

There is a way to be in digital space where you are also aware of three-dimensional space. Body posture, staying tuned to your senses, being aware of the people around you, and how they feel.

Another important factor is keeping track of your fear level. In an overwhelming, overheated environment, fear is a natural emotion, just like if you happened to eat three pot brownies at a party and didn't know what was happening.

Finally, what feels good that does not involve instant gratification? One thing that comes to mind is preparing your own food rather than letting others do it for you. Nobody needs a salad that was handled by 10 different people. There are a lot of things you can do for yourself.

Chiron Conjunct Eris: The Individual Meets The Tribal. The Holistic Meets The Fragmentary.

Planet Waves

February 26, 2026

[Link to Original](#)

We are in the midst of an influential flow of events, astrological and historical, though the pace is about to pick up. The culmination point is the third and final conjunction of Chiron and Eris on March 19.

While this is the rare meeting of two distant planets, one with a 51-year orbit (Chiron) and the other with an approximately 557-year orbit (Eris), the events surrounding this conjunction have a distinctly personal feeling. This is due to the prominence of Mercury, Venus and Mars throughout the proceedings.

There is also a lunar eclipse in the mix, which is a Moon-Sun event that is distinctly personal as well. Yet eclipses also have a way of connecting the individual and the collective. And then there is the Aries Point, which does the same thing.

One useful way to read astrology is to look at when the closer-in personal planets (Mercury, Venus and Mars) line up with the slower-moving planets that address deeper themes (such as Saturn, Chiron, Neptune and Eris, among others).

The inner planets personalize the outer planets and bring their meaning and effects in closer. Outer planet events (such as Chiron conjunct Eris) can set the zeitgeist of an era and represent

historical turning points. When the inner planets get involved, it's easier to experience events as being personally relevant, and available to one's mind, one's feelings and one's senses.

Aries Point Involvement: Political as Personal

Another way to bring events close in is to have them aligned with the Aries Point, or the first degree of the zodiac. This is the point of reckoning between the tropical zodiac (based on the seasons) and the sidereal (star-based) zodiac.

We have all heard of the Aries Point because that's the thing being tracked when we talk about the Age of Aquarius beginning. The Sidereal Vernal Point is currently still aligned with sidereal Pisces (i.e., the constellation and the sidereal sign), wobbling its way ever-so-slowly "retrograde" toward Aquarius. It does not reach the first star in Aquarius for hundreds of years, while the technological state of society suggests strongly that we are already in some kind of Aquarian age, or the precursor to it.

In any event, the Aries Point or SVP serves to personalize matters, it brings them closer to perception. The overall effect of the Aries Point is to de-individuate, to turn inside-out and violate and even eliminate privacy in a way that is peculiar to electronic media.

All electrical devices, from the light bulb to the telephone to your cellphone, eliminate privacy both as a concept and as a lived reality. This is the same phenomenon. Once the idea of privacy is eliminated, the experience is also eliminated (even though eventually people stop noticing the situation, as is happening now).

In Fact, a Radio Phenomenon

I have read that awareness of the Aries Point goes back to the days of Ptolemy, though I have not directly encountered this information in my limited reading of old texts. The Aries Point finds its way into modern astrology through the Uranian or

Hamburg School (same thing), which still exists today. Here is a Google summary that I know to be reasonably accurate:

“Alfred Witte and the early Uranian School (Hamburg School) of astrology began incorporating the Aries Point into their techniques during the 1920s and 1930s. They established it as a critical point representing public view, fame, and the widest social relationships, aligning with Witte’s experimental work developed between 1919 and 1925.”

Notice that this discovery occurs as the radio era is beginning, with government using radio for propaganda broadcasts (in both Allied and Axis countries) and the first commercial radio stations being licensed in the United States. Thus, we can say that radio technology both retrieved and amplified the Aries Point. And the Aries Point is described as (and feels a lot like) the odd personal-public effect that radio created. It is, of itself, an amplifier.

The Aries Point as we know it today is a direct phenomenon of the “personal is political” mental environment of radio. Hence: the Radio Point.

Eris Entered Aries in the 1920s

This happened as Eris entered Aries, meaning that Eris was conjunct the Aries Point repeatedly in the 1920s. This culminated with a series of Uranus-Eris conjunctions in 1927 and 1928, which peak with a Jupiter-Uranus-Eris conjunction in the first degree of Aries on Jan. 25, 1928. It was during this series of conjunctions that John McCarthy, inventor of “artificial intelligence,” was born.

This Aries lineup is exactly square Pholus in the first degree of Capricorn (also activating the Aries Point). Pholus is the runaway reaction and the small cause with a big effect. And that was radio, the first electronic mass communication medium.

Radio marked the beginning of the mass communication electronic broadcast era. The mental conditions of this era set up the mental state of society that gave rise to Hitler, Gandhi,

Roosevelt, Mussolini and other characters from that era. They had one thing in common, which was mastery of the radio medium.

We saw the power of radio again in this era with the September 1939 speech by newly-coronated King George VI, informing Great Britain that it was at war with Germany. George was an extreme stutterer who overcame his debility to give what is known as one of the most influential speeches in modern history. The time and place offers another extraordinary Eris in Aries chart.

And a Digital Phenomenon

Of all technology, radio bears the greatest resemblance to digital. Both create the “global village” or “global theater” experience. Both unravel individuality, privacy, private identity, and the personal, interior conscience. Both turn people into tribal beings who struggle to think for themselves.

And this can spin society on its finger. Here is an example. In 2016, the world experienced the seemingly uncontrollable rise of Donald Trump, who thought he would run for president as a marketing campaign for his brands — never expecting to win. Trump was a master of using Twitter, the modern-day radio, to galvanize the public.

Everyone was asking how the heck it was possible for Tony Baloney to be running the world from his phone, spewing out hate speech, then getting the Republican nomination with all of the party’s senior members screaming in objection. Then he won the election, or at least was declared the winner.

Nobody really understands how this happened, though the combination of media theory and astrology provides some points of understanding. These will serve as a reminder of how we got into the mess we are currently in.

The Uranus-Eris Conjunctions of 2016

What was happening in 2016 was a series of Uranus-Eris conjunctions in Aries, which threw gasoline onto the already out-

of-control digital fire. And that was when we experienced the digital phenomenon of someone totally unqualified for office taking over the U.S. presidency — using digital tools.

These Uranus-Eris conjunctions occurred on June 8, 2016, Sept. 25, 2016, and March 17, 2017, though they have a much wider time orb covering at least two years on either side. But '16 and '17 were the peak, and represented a major turning point in the history of the digital age. This led to similar out-of-control tribal events of late 2017 and throughout 2018.

What we learned about in 2016 was not the power of digital technology itself but rather the ways in which digitized people can be manipulated by those who have mastered the technology. It's easy to point to the devices and blame them for things that happen. But the technology does not exist independently of the effects that it has on people. The final result is the mass consciousness created by billions of digitally hypnotized individuals adding up to a digitally hypnotized society.

The Antidote: Chiron Meets Eris

Eris is a chaotic, hypnotic influence that both fragments and tribalizes people. Uranus is a chaotic, electrical influence associated with groups, which is to say that Uranus also tribalizes people. So from both, we got a tribal effect.

We are now experiencing the Chiron-Eris conjunction. Chiron, the maverick, is an individuating force. Chiron's method is to see patterns and to turn the chaos of disease into order. Eris is fragmentary and Chiron is holistic. Eris is invisible and Chiron works in the open. Eris deceives. Chiron is driven by honesty. All healing is about honesty.

Eris externalizes, and Chiron internalizes and actualizes. In Aries, that means self-actualization. So in the meeting of Chiron and Eris, we have the intersection of the powerfully individuating influence of Chiron encountering the chaos-generation and collectivizing factor of Eris. This is going to be turbulent, as we

are seeing. But we are also seeing the first astrological event associated with awakening, focus and inner awareness in a long time.

However, the effect of this is not automatic. Chiron never is. Chiron presents the option to tap into something that is available. It is a special tool that will allow you to perceive much that is invisible. Then you must use what you know.

This Is Not About Mass Awakening

The electric tribe is going to revolt against any shift of consciousness or individual self-awareness. I say let them knock themselves out. In any group where individuals are awakening, there are little coalitions who want to hold the process down.

So, you will need to be alert, awake and in possession of the kind of strength that comes from flexibility. Pay attention and make every decision consciously. Each counts for a lot right now.

One last point. Chiron-Eris does not describe "mass awakening." It's about individual awakening. So please, stop waiting "for everyone to wake up." Get out of bed, put on your slippers, say hi to your cat, and make a pot of coffee. Otay?