



# The Astropoetic School of Soul-Discovery

## News From The Astropoetic School

### January 2012

Greetings from **The Astropoetic School of Soul Discovery** located in the heart of the galaxy on **Milky Way Farm** here in the beautiful Ozarks - where the stars fall from the heavens as crisp new snowflakes.

It has been awhile since I have communicated with those of you on this mailing list. I suppose that attests to the fact that I have been too busy with my work to take much time to promote it. It is also a reflection of the fact that every so often, I need to take some time for myself, to recharge my own batteries, and to focus on my own growth.

What good would I be as a teacher if I were not also learning something new at my own cutting edge? For me, this past year, my periodic pilgrimage to this cutting edge took the form of a 13-day wilderness experience this past October in southern Utah, including a 4-day solo vision quest. As most of you surely know, the vision quest is a Native American rite of passage for the purpose of reconnecting with the deepest truth within oneself, usually conducted in a wild and natural setting, without food, in some cases without water, and nothing to do but to commune with the spirits - of self, of place, of the natural world. I have been on four previous quests, and have found each to be a catalyst to a major shift in my focus, and in my understanding of my purpose.

This quest - called **The Underworld Journey** - was no different - except for the fact that it was the most exquisitely guided I have ever experienced. The quest was sponsored by the **Animas Valley Institute** (<http://www.animas.org>) and led by Bill Plotkin (author of two extraordinary books - *Soulcraft: Crossing into the Mysteries of Nature and Psyche* and *Nature and the Human Soul: Cultivating Wholeness in a Fragmented World*) and Geneen Marie Haugen, a gentle but fiercely imaginative soul with penetrating insight. For those of you who are drawn to the vision quest or to a more intimate relationship with the more-than-human-world of stones, sky, rivers, junipers, and wolves, I highly recommend any of the intriguing programs offered each year by the **Animas Valley Institute**. I also highly recommend Bill Plotkin's books, as they are filled with provocative soul-stirring truth.

Although this is not the place to go into details, I can honestly say my soul was stirred quite deeply, and what was churned up for me to integrate will inform my work in this school, my books, my life from this point forward. I also received a vision on my quest that I will gradually reveal in these newsletters as The School itself becomes transformed into a much broader and more comprehensive venue for self-discovery and self-reinvention. For those of you who can't wait for the details to be revealed, email me privately, and I can share a bit more with you. To everyone else, please stay tuned.

## The Course

Meanwhile, since last May (when I sent the last issue of **News From the Astropoetic School**), I have continued to slowly revise my correspondence course to include more examples from student files, famous people, and my own experiences, and to reflect a more astropoetic bent - in which the goal is not interpretation, but self-reflection using astrology as a springboard for the creative imagination. Most recently, I finished a revision of Lesson 18, discussing the Moon's Nodes.

Traditional astrologers interpret the nodal axis as an indication of evolutionary direction in this life. That is to say, it is generally assumed that one must beware of falling into unconscious habit patterns at the South Node, lest they prove to be one's undoing, while any effort to strive in the direction of the North Node will elicit cooperation of the universe toward success. The South Node is symbolic of the past, a cumulative repository of experiences with karmic residue that seeks resolution in this life. The South is familiar, but can be the source of self-sabotage and derailment, if we merely attempt to take the path of least resistance, and simply do what we have done before.

Meanwhile, the North Node is symbolic of our future, a beckoning call into the unknown, where our latent potentials wait to be discovered and actualized. If the South Node represents our karma, then the North Node is our dharma, that all-fulfilling function and sense of purpose that we were born to realize through the living of our lives in harmony with our nature. The path toward actualization of the promise of the North Node can be challenging, but any effort to meet and rise above these challenges will be rewarded with a level of success that transcends our input into the process.

While I don't entirely dispute this view, I present the Nodes in a slightly different way - considering them as an axis of maximum cooperation between what I call the solar and lunar agendas. The solar agenda - aligned with the North Node - is a path of creative self-actualization and often of movement toward taking one's place within the world.

The lunar agenda - aligned with the South Node - is a path of self-healing, and of diving more deeply into the soul's intimately personal journey toward mythopoetic identity.

Who we are at the sacred core of our being is not necessarily who we are in the world, and what the soul requires of us often is the antithesis of what the world expects of us.

So juggling these two interpenetrating aspects of our being is a challenge for everyone - one that comes together synergistically on the nodal axis.

As do most astrologers, I have reinvented almost every aspect of the art in the marinating stew of my own 40-years experience. The result is a grand ever-evolving experiment in which I invite all my students to participate.

Says one student about this process:

*I can count on the fingers of one hand those teachers that have allowed me, when the urge hits, to take the bit between my teeth and run -*

*sometimes in more directions than one at the same time. They have been among the lights in my life and I thank you for being one of them.*

I do try to inspire and challenge my students, as well as myself in moving to the heart of astrology's uncanny capacity to illuminate what we don't already know about ourselves. But mostly I have been blessed with students who are passionate about their own process of self-discovery. So for me, taking my own studies to the next level is often simply a matter of meeting the passion, the curiosity, and the creative imagination of each student with my own. It is a consistent and ever-amazing pleasure. And I get paid for this! What could be better than that?

If you want to deepen your understanding of astrology while you explore your own mythopoetic roots, perhaps this course is for you. You can listen to an audio interview with me about the course at:

<http://www.astropoetics.com/interview.html>

## **Basic Astropoetics: Year One - The Houses**

Later this year, I plan to publish the first year of my correspondence course in book form. Year One focuses on the houses, which form the experiential context in which the soul's journey takes place. I begin with a discussion of hemispheres and quadrants, showing how from the very beginning - a cursory glance at the distribution of planets above and below the horizon, to the east and west of the meridian - we can glean important information about the orientation of the soul to its embodied life. From there I move through the usual increasingly nuanced distinctions between angular, succedent and cadent houses; the correlation of houses with elements; and the individual nature of each house.

Throughout the book, I also consider the daily clockwise motion of planets through houses - from sunrise at the Ascendant to noon at the Midheaven to sunset at the Descendant and midnight at the Nadir - as a metaphor for a more soul-based orientation to the task of living that complements and deepens our understanding of circumstances as revealed by the traditional counterclockwise motion from 1st to 2nd to 3rd house, etc. I also introduce readers to new concepts such as *angular ambivalence* - the notion that planets near the angles of the chart are in transition from one mode of being to another; and *elemental alchemy* - the idea that the juxtaposition of elements within houses, quadrants and hemispheres poses specific challenges of integration and soul growth, even before we add the planets to the birthchart.

There will be plenty for everyone in this book - from beginning students, who don't know a house from a home, to more advanced students, who may have been conditioned to believe that houses and signs are simply interchangeable. I may experiment with publishing this book as an ebook, but in any case, I will keep you posted as I bring it to "press."

# Introduction to the Clockwise Motion of Planets Through Houses

October 26-29, 2011  
near Mountain View, MO

In October of this year, I will be teaching a 3 1/2 day workshop introducing the basic principles of clockwise motion, introduced in my book. If you come to this workshop, you will learn how to approach the symbolism of the houses as a framework for understanding the experiential context for your soul's journey. To quote from an article I wrote about this for **The Mountain Astrologer** in 2000:

*Whether viewed within the context of a single lifetime, or a series of incarnations, this clockwise schema provides a framework in which it is possible to understand a life process not just in terms of its outer events, and our adaptation to them, but also from within as a vehicle for the soul's process of self-realization. As the placement of individual planets, and larger planetary patterns are considered from within this framework, they begin to reveal themselves as subjective barometers . . . marking the footsteps of a life in progress, not as bits and pieces of the choreography of our collective life, but as statements of intention around which the soul of the individual seeks to actualize itself.*

The workshop will be experiential as well as conceptual, and there will be plenty of space for each participant to explore their life process with group support. The workshop will be limited to 6-12 participants, and students of the correspondence course will have first preference.

For non-students, the cost of the 3 1/2 day event will be \$450 plus accommodations. For students, the cost of the course (not including accommodations) will be included in their annual fee at a savings of \$150. The accommodations fee will be kept as low as possible, and announced once a suitable venue is located.

If this sounds like something that might interest you, you can email me for details at:

[jlandwehr@astropoetics.com](mailto:jlandwehr@astropoetics.com)

## Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers Part Two

My other current writing project is Part Two of **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers**. In Part One, I explored the spiritual psychology of numbers, as revealed through the study of Pythagorean teachings about number. In Part Two, I discuss in some detail how these various numbers interweave throughout the birthchart. I am currently writing Chapter Three in which I explore the planetary dynamics involved in

each Number Realm. The Pythagoreans associated various deities with each number, many of whom have planetary correlates. In Part One, I also suggested cross-chakra dynamics involving integration of various states of consciousness conducive to optimal functioning at each level - with each chakra in turn also associated with a certain planetary dynamic. Putting all this together, I am arriving at a series of planetary signatures for each Number Realm. It sounds complicated, I know. But my approach is based on sound astro-logic, which I spell out step by step in my book.

I am currently exploring the planetary dynamics of the Realm of One. The number One is associated by arithmologists with the Monad, or Creator god, otherwise understood as the creative principle by which the chaos of the Abyss (the Realm of Zero) is brought into some semblance of manageable order, so that the evolutionary process might succeed. Those with strong Realm of One patterns in their chart will in some way empower humankind to move toward a more hopeful, more enlightened, more conscious future. Without going into the detailed astro-logic behind these designations - thoroughly explained in the book - the planets most clearly associated with Realm of One patterns are Sun, Jupiter, and Uranus. Secondary players in this Realm include Moon, Venus, and Neptune. Charts with planetary patterns involving all three primary planets and one or more secondary players will often exhibit strong Realm of One profiles.

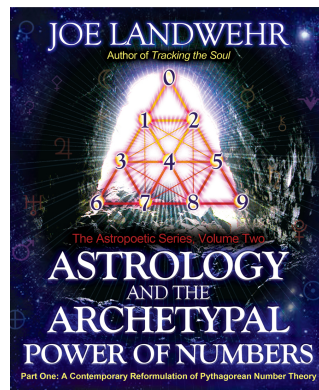
Jesuit priest and paleontologist Pierre Tielhard de Chardin, for example, has a Taurus stellium (mostly in the 12th house) involving Jupiter, Sun, Neptune and Venus, all trine Uranus in Virgo in the 4th house. In contrast to the teachings of the Catholic Church with which he was at odds throughout a lifetime of prolific religious and scientific activity, de Chardin taught that human beings were working collectively through a trial and error process toward a full embodiment of God within Creation. He refuted Church teachings that Christ died for our sins, suggesting instead that Christ showed the way for the rest of us to follow, and that it was our job to finish what he had started. In typical Realm of One fashion, he both empowered human beings to embrace their own evolutionary destiny, and charged us with the responsibility to do so. In an indirect allusion to a strong Realm of One archetype - Prometheus - de Chardin said:

*The day will come when, after harnessing the ether, the winds, the tides, gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire. - Pierre Tielhard de Chardin, **Toward the Future**, pp. 86-87.*

For each of the Realms, I give a variety of ways in which numbers are emphasized astrologically, and then give examples of those who have functioned in this Realm in ways that have changed the world. This is a complex topic, and it will take me some time to finish Part Two. Meanwhile, Part One lays the foundation, weaving together ideas from spiritual psychology, mythology, and astrology with social commentary, history, environmental politics, and personal experience to create a visceral sense of the numbers from 0 to 9. Says one reviewer about the book:

*How can you take a tour of the counting numbers, each in turn, and yet have the sense that you have been exploring the very nonlinear reaches of a fractal galaxy? In his new book, **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One**, Landwehr has masterfully woven a diverse collection of mythological teachings, modern social commentary, and personal life lessons into a coherent perspective of human spirit and consciousness. – Dr. Mark Arnold, Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville.*

**Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers, Part One** continues where my previous books, **The Seven Gates of Soul: Reclaiming the Poetry of Everyday Life** and **Tracking the Soul With An Astrology of Consciousness** left off - as part of a series of books I intend to write outlining an astropoetic practice of astrology. Astropoetics builds on a solid foundation of the symbolic logic of astrology, but creates a more personal visceral sense of the symbolism that is rooted in your own life experience, as well as in a more sensory and imagistic perspective, taken from a variety of sources. The goal of **The Astropoetic Series** of which these books are part is to develop astrology as an astropoetic language of soul by providing it with a more solid philosophical base.



Part One is available on my publishing company web site, where you can read the entire introduction, peruse the table of contents, and scan the reviews:

[http://joelandwehr.typepad.com/ancient\\_tower\\_press/astrology-and-the-archetypal-power-of-number.html](http://joelandwehr.typepad.com/ancient_tower_press/astrology-and-the-archetypal-power-of-number.html)

## A Word About Amazon

My books are available for sale through Amazon by third party vendors, although you will get a better deal directly through my web site. Last I checked, an autographed copy of **Astrology and the Archetypal Power of Numbers** was selling for \$25 - \$5 more than retail. You can get a brand new copy from me for \$20 plus shipping, and I'll be happy to autograph it for free, upon request.



Although Amazon is convenient to the buyer, companies like Amazon and most wholesale distributors take an inordinate amount of the financial profits from each book they sell. If you are willing to forego the convenience of one-stop shopping, buying direct from any author or publisher can go a long way toward supporting those who are directly responsible for creating the books you read.

I call my one-man campaign to support authors and publishers **Fair Trade Publishing**, and you can read more about it on my web site at:

[http://joelandwehr.typepad.com/ancient\\_tower\\_press/fair-trade-publishing.html](http://joelandwehr.typepad.com/ancient_tower_press/fair-trade-publishing.html)

## **Astrological Consultations**

Although my focus these past 19 years has been on writing my books, and teaching students to use the language of astrology as a guide to self-reflection, I am now also available for private consultations.

I am not interested in doing general readings to satisfy curiosity about astrology or about life, and I do not predict the future. But I do believe that astrology can be helpful for approaching life's challenges with greater awareness, and I am willing to guide you in this use of it.

My particular approach combines professional training in psychological counseling with 40-years of experience working with astrology. I also reference the chakra system in my work (see my book **Tracking the Soul With an Astrology of Consciousness** for an overview of this approach), as it allows for greater depth of nuance in approaching astrological symbolism. It also provides an opening to a more proactive and intentional embodiment of astrological energies, and goes far beyond merely descriptive astrology in empowering you to live your life more consciously.

I have also trained in medical astrology, and am available to help those suffering with chronic illness to better understand the psychosomatic components of their health issues, and the opportunities for soul growth that they may provide.

For first time clients, I charge on a sliding scale from \$150-\$250 for a 90-minute session. Subsequent sessions are \$100-\$200. I can work by phone or by Skype (Skype preferred). I record each session on a CD, which I send you, along with my preparatory notes when we are done.

Says one recent client about my work:

*Joe's unique approach to astrology has helped me discover the core issues that stand in the way of the full expression of my beingness. His consultation, and the brilliantly written notes that are included with it, zero in on what years in therapy or self-realization workshops tend to dance around. Although his medium is*

*astrology his message is easy to understood by anyone who is honestly interested in finding out who they really are and why. I read his notes to my therapist and he smiled in agreement.*

## Unsubscribing

Since you are on my mailing list - which means you were at one time interested in my work - you are automatically subscribed to this e-letter, which you will receive three times a year. In it, I will share the latest news from **The Astropoetic School**, and my publishing company **Ancient Tower Press**.

Hopefully this news will be of interest to you, but if it is not, please just let me know, and I will take you off the mailing list.

If you know anyone else who might be interested in this newsletter, please feel free to pass it on. But please also be discriminating and do not simply broadcast it to your entire list. No one likes spam, and in no way do I wish to generate it.

I wish you all a peaceful winter, and will be back in touch in May.

Meanwhile, let me know if I can help you find your unique inner snowflake here at **Milky Way Farm**.

Be well,

Joe Landwehr

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