

David Pond – Spiritual Indicators in the Birth Chart - by Lisa Carlin, ASA Scribe

Welcome, today is Earth Day. Today we are going to work on spiritual indicators in the birth chart. One of the most dominant questions I get asked during reading – what is my sense of purpose, what about my soul, my spiritual direction?

Let's look at 2 words – soul and spirit. How to distinguish between them? Everyone has their own definition. Thomas Moore's (author of Care of the Soul) describes soul as that which seeks lowly places. He defines spiritual as the spirit that seeks to rise. Spiritual is to transcend the personal, soul is to get down in the personal, emotions, etc. He would say the soul tends to be melancholy.

Our culture doesn't understand the soul. If the Mind = Air, Body = Earth, Spirit = Fire, then Soul = Emotions = Water. For people with lots of water in their chart – you can help them by redefining emotional states. Instead of saying you are “up or down” emotionally you can say “inward or outward.” Our culture has a bias against emotions, against being introspective or inward, and towards earthly doing. Even astrology programs do aspects to the M.C. and not the I.C.

Spiritual Houses

Water signs and water houses are very important. The 4th house is what is beneath our feet – home, roots, personal mythology, ancestors, where you live on the earth. The 4th house shows intimacy with oneself (intimacy with a partner is the 8th house, intimacy with God is the 12th house). The sign on the cusp will describe your attitude and what kind of environment you need to retreat to – your sanctuary.

Aries on 4th house cusp – she gets there through action, being busy. Suggest a walking meditation, a moving method of meditating.

Libra on 4th house cusp, Venus in 10th in Aries. Beauty has to be there in the environment, the refinement of Libra.

Pisces 4th house cusp. It is essential that you have quality alone time because you assimilate so much.

Capricorn 4th house cusp – important for you to own your own home. Also keep it well maintained. Work at home, office in the home.

Gemini – often have 2 homes in 2 different environments.

Scorpio – private, personal and need quiet, alone time like Pisces since they are water signs. For Scorpio children you want them to have their own bedrooms if possible. If you are married it is nice to have your own niche – private space in the home.

Virgo – maintains their home, not necessarily spotless but doesn't let things deteriorate.

Leo – like a strong personal expression in the home, very dramatic, bright colors.

8th House – intimacy with another, the house of sex, death and money. When you see someone with a progressed moon entering the 8th house we see a deep yearning for intimacy. The 8th house is also where we store all the memories of all hurts, abandonment. Street Level wisdom of the 8th house – love is a risk, you might get hurt. It's not a risk, it's a 100% guarantee – everyone has been hurt. The high wisdom is letting go – transformation and forgiveness. Everything has a reason/purpose, what was my lesson? There are 2 levels of Scorpio energy – the blamers and the mystics. 8th house lessons are how to trust and enter into the emotions, not easy in a culture that doesn't believe in emotions. For strong 8th house or Scorpio transits I recommend The Tibetan book of the Living and Dying by Sogyal Rinpoche.

Aquarius on the 8th house – liberated and detached, tries to rise above personal feelings and understand 8th house issues in a universal way.

Taurus – wants stability, comfort. Opposing sign of Scorpio.

Cancer – wants emotional security, wants physical closeness, touch, affection.

Libra – Not going to be easy because it's tough to be charming about death, sex, taxes. Tendency to become detached as air will, and to be easily manipulated by anyone who becomes unpleasant.

Sagittarius – tendency to try to outrun its emotions.

12th house. Books written before 1970 say you are your own worst enemy, and you will live in a hospital, monastery, or prison. There has been a great transformation since then about the 12th house. Now we call it the house of spirituality, dreams and deeper meaning – dissolving the ego. People with a strong 12th house need alone time on an everyday basis. You probably shift your hours to work early or late for the quiet time.

Leo brings creative energy to personal spirituality. Strong Leo ego is not supportive in 12th house goals to dissolve the ego. One could become proud of their spiritual progress.

Virgo – practical application of the spirit world. Dream analysis is an example of merging 12th and 6th house energies – finding the objective meaning of subjective symbolism.

Capricorn – same as Virgo, needs an earthly practice to engage the spiritual progress.

Aquarius – Tendency to disassociate from personal emotional intimacy of the 12th house, but associates with the Universal intimacy part.

Libra – refined approach to spirituality. Self-help books, literature. Read a lot of spiritual books. As an air sign it has a tougher time dealing with the water, emotional issues of the 12th house. One has to work through wanting to avoid the unpleasantness of the 12th house karmic lessons in order to activate the Scorpio rising.

We started talking about Taurus, intercepted in the 12th house. As mentioned Fri night, anything hard for the ego is good for the spiritual and the soul. Intercepted sign, retrograde planets, etc. are easier for spirit but can be tougher for personality. Retrogrades bring an internal focus, direct

motion brings an external focus. So with Taurus intercepted in the 12th, the karma of looking for too much comfort and security has to be worked through in order to reach the deeper level issues.

Scorpio on the 12th house is well suited since it is a water sign. Natural intuitive insights, interest in dreams. Learning how to surrender and find the right spiritual teachers is a challenge, try to avoid mistrust. Can be the “truth seeker or cynic.”

There is a tendency in our culture to want our spiritual teachers to be “squeaky clean”, having wholly transcended lust, greed, \$\$, sex, food, air... ☺ And if they can't do that, then they can't be a spiritual leader. I disagree and think it is good for them to have some real human qualities.

BREAK

One of the great phrases I like is “If you can't experience intimacy with yourself and keep your heart open to yourself how can you open your heart and have depth of intimacy with another?” A great affirmation is “I have never done or been anything that is unforgivable.” None of us has done anything that is not human. People are still coming out of a religious hangover with the guilt and shame about who we are.

Outer planets as spiritual indicators

Let's move to the outer planets, including Chiron. Where Chiron is in your chart is where you have gone through wounds. The wounds are not your destiny, your destiny is how your life heals because of the wounds. Chiron by house and sign shows your original sacred wound that forced you on a path of healing. It is the healing that is the destiny.

So where Chiron is in your chart is where you can't accept a garden-variety experience of what your culture offers. You'll have to recognize that would be wounding for you. If Chiron is in your 7th house – the type of relationships that culture says should work for you – that is your wound. Your relationships need to have a higher dimension, have a quest. The relationship would be a vehicle of consciousness growth.

I have Chiron in Sagittarius in the 12th house. I was sexually abused by my Sunday school teacher. From that I learned to find other spiritual avenues like yoga, astrology, meditation, and wonderful spiritual teachers. For me, Christianity was not my path – Chiron in the 12th house. If you have Chiron in the 12th house then your cultural religion probably doesn't work for you. You have to seek outside, and the seeking is your destiny.

Chiron in the 6th house – attitudes around health, culture and diet. We are in a culture that doesn't realize how food is related to health. Probably the “cultural” diet doesn't work for you and would need to seek a new diet that would help your spiritual quest.

Chiron in the 1st house – we are in a culture that glorifies the self quite a bit. You would have to find some way of self growth yet still benefit others. “The more I become the more I have to give” is a good way to describe Chiron in the 1st house.

Chiron in the 8th house – the type of intimacy that culture offers would not be satisfying. You need a deeper type of intimacy, sacred sexuality, tantra sexuality.

Chiron in the 3rd – the way you use your mind and gather information. Where do you get your information – from TV, popular press? “You are what you think, you become what you once thought.” “Think as if all your thoughts were written across the sky for all to read.”

Chiron in the 5th house in Aries – tied to your creativity and children. It is important to live a life born out of the heart, to access that creativity by simply jumping into the Aries energy. You will find that the way culture defines fun won't fit. Find a higher path in dealing with children than the cultural norm.

Chiron in the 4th house – you must find your place on the planet and your connection to Earth. The climate and vegetation must work, must be a sacred place for you.

Chiron in the 9th house – the education, philosophy and spiritual quest of your culture. Similar to Chiron in the 12th; it is important for you not to accept the political and religious views you grew up with. Your path and destination is the seeking for something else.

Chiron in the 2nd house is issues with security and money. In our culture we learn that security is 1) a defense posture and 2) something we never get. Constant chase for security for a little bit more above what we have. With Chiron you have to get outside the cultural attitude in order to feel connected to what makes you feel secure. A walk out in nature is a good way to feel the life force around you and feel a deeper sense of security.

The outer planets, as we jump into them... Uranus is the awakener. Where it is in your chart is where you need to cast off social and cultural expectations and discover your own authenticity. Uranus transits “quicken” the energy. Books often talk about reversals with Uranus transits but what I find in consultations is usually acceleration, a moving fast forward on their evolutionary time track. But can they handle the energy? I teach breathing techniques, visualization of moving the energy. Where Uranus is shows the hunger to evolve, be innovative, be authentic.

Neptune is more important for spiritual issues because it is imagination that leads us to faith and fear. Faith and fear are flip sides of the same coin. You can't be afraid without imagination. Neptune unbridled leads to some inspiration and some illusions. Illusions and despair follow each other in a vicious cycle. With Neptune we can split ourselves from reality; we imagine how life would be better if it were only different. The day you imagine a better life is a day you can't be happy because you just created an ideal reality that is not possible. It makes it impossible to enjoy the now.

It can take a lifetime of work to distinguish between imagination, inspiration, and illusion.

Neptune is the urge to transcend – it pulls us into the upper chakras. Where Neptune is in your chart is 1) where you are prone to your blind spot, and 2) your source of inspiration. The artist and the spiritual seeker are both using higher manifestations of Neptune that enhances rather than drains energy.

Neptune transits in a chart awaken psychic sensitivity and compassion. You want to be able to share with people that are suffering without carrying around the suffering yourself.

When I am dealing with a client who is going through deep suffering I like to use a Buddhist practice called Tonglen. It is the inverse of new age where you breathe in the light and breathe out the dark; Tonglen you breathe in the emotion and breathe out the light. The important difference is Shunyata which means emptiness or void. As you breathe in the suffering – you breathe it through you into Shunyata so it doesn't stick to you or anyone else, then breathe out the compassion. This is a way of positively dealing with the suffering of the world. With the first half of the breath you taste the emotion, with the second half of breath you dissolve it into Shunyata.

People who come into this life with Neptune retrograde come into life at a state of spiritual evolution that precludes them from deferring to any other spiritual teacher. They can gather information well but can't surrender to one teacher. Why? They have already been on this path for a while and need to find their own way.

With Uranus retrograde you were probably very involved in frontline revolutionary activity in a previous life. You come into the first half of this life where your soul gives you a little R&R. You are probably surprised when you walk down a street and people don't know you – in a previous life you were well known.

With a Pluto retrograde you are here to stumble across your destiny, you aren't meant to know. You are amazed by people who know their life path – butcher, baker, candlestick maker. You are forced to stay in touch with your inner guidance, because you don't much advance notice – about 2 weeks. Then life is going to shift, and you can't stop it or make it go where you want. Change is abrupt, unyielding, and doesn't happen until the soul is ready.

Pluto is a very complex planet. It has a shadow side, where we have to purge qualities from previous lives in order to evolve. It is also where our destiny, our purpose is. Most of us want to know what our purpose is but when it shows up we have fear because it is out of our control. If it is in our control it is not destiny.

With Pluto one must learn how to surrender, not sacrifice; how to use collective, not individual power; how to align with "The Power." Pluto teaches us how to allow the divine to become successful through the self; not by sacrifice but with our participation.

Where Pluto is in your chart is where you will go through the deepest transformation. There is purging at one level that occurs in order to let the greater destiny to move forward. If you can do it successfully, there is an empowerment that one walks into. If you misuse or deny Pluto then you will attract the shadow side and see it in others.

My woman friend has Pluto oppose Mars that she does not relate to in her chart. I looked psychic when I asked if she attracted dominating, controlling and somewhat abusive men. How did I know? It's a guarantee that if we don't claim our Pluto energy we will get it through projection.

Pluto on the Ascendant people have an impact that is stronger than they intend or expect. They trigger the best and worst. People with Pluto in the 1st house, out of sign, and off the Ascendant can be empowered in a group of people. At a town meeting they can come up with the solution the entire group can agree on.

Pluto in the 8th house people are natural hypnotists. They are very curious about what goes on under the surface, and you can't shock them. They can have a hypnotic voice. You can't lie to someone with Pluto in the 8th because they've seen it all. There can be compelling issues around sexuality.

I think it's quite fine to look at the one's birth chart as one's last life death chart. Without telling our clients about their past lives, we can use the South node and outer planet aspects as clues to karma the person brought in to work on. The South node is the skills, qualities, talents and abilities that you developed and mastered. South node is the path of least resistance; it is familiar but there is no growth. If we treat it as if it's not healthy we are throwing out the baby with the bathwater. We have a lot to share from our South Node talents.

If you have planets near the South node, the association has something to do with the previous life. People with planets on or near your South node are people you may have known in your previous life.

The North node is where the soul is hungry, drawing material from. It is unfamiliar and uncomfortable but it helps with growth. It doesn't get you out of life, one doesn't transcend, so I think it leads to soul growth. The North node allows growth through situations that arise.

BREAK

There are always ways to break free of our karma, when we learn the lessons and accept the relevance of it.

I don't use Saturn in spiritual readings. I consider it the social and cultural influences in this life, not of past lives. If it is in the 12th house or aspected by outer planets than I use it. Uranus, Neptune and Pluto deal with eternal parts of our being that have never incarnated into form so they are the spiritual in my mind, where Saturn is form and materialization related.

When we have challenging aspects to Neptune from other outer planets it is a time to question our spiritual practices and techniques to see if they are really working. Neptune squaring Neptune, around 50 years old, is an important time for people to re-question their prayers and methods.

Let's look at some charts of spiritual people....

(Note: Birth Data taken from Kepler Database, not lecture)

Paramhansa Yogananda (1/5/1883, 8:38 PM Gorakhpur, India from Kepler database) wrote Autobiography of a Yogi was one of the 1st Hindu teachers that came to our western culture to teach self realization, fellowship. Swami Kriyananda (5/19/1926 7:00am, place?) is a direct disciple of Yogananda who spent four years being trained by the Master and started the Ananda Foundation in California. Take a look at their chart connections. Yogananda's Sun at 15° Capricorn is conjunct within 2° of Kriyananda's South Node. This shows Yogananda was Kriyananda's teacher in a previous life as well. Kriyananda's Venus is on Yogananda's Mars-Jupiter; this is interesting in terms of love and magnetism. They both have Moon in Leo within a few degrees of each other; Kriyananda has a Moon-Neptune conjunction. Yogananda has Chiron in the 1st house, showing it is easy to develop the self identify but not for ego identification. The Yogi wrote a book about himself, telling his story for a spiritual purpose.

Rabindranath Tagore, a mystic poet from India (5/7/1861 4:02 am Calcutta, India). Has Sun Venus and Pluto conjunct in the 1st house. Moon in the 12th house close to the Ascendant shows spiritual ties.

Dane Rudhyar (3/23/1895 12:42 am Paris, France) has Chiron in the 9th house. His culture's philosophy and religion are wounding to him. Mars is between Pluto and Neptune that are conjunct in the 6th house.

Ram Dass (4/6/1931 10:40am Boston, MA) had a life crises a few years ago. Now, a stroke limits his ability to move and talk. But he still writes and calls his life "a series of death and rebirths." Pluto is on the Ascendant, and we talked about how people with that trigger more impact than they expect. Uranus-Sun conjunct is an active rebel; he rebelled against the Harvard tradition with Timothy Leary and took drugs. Later went to India and became a skilled meditator. He has Pluto opposed Saturn. These people are world-shapers if they aren't crushed by the culture around them, they make powerful changes. Venus in Pisces, Jupiter in the 12th house – he talks about how he feels he is a blessed being.

Gurudev (Baba) Muktananda (5/16/1908 Dhama Thala, India) was another powerful spiritual being. He started the Yoga Foundation that is still in NY. In Central Park, whenever he played music, sang or chanted he could send electric energy to a crowd of people, without touching them, and make them dance. He has a Mars-Pluto conjunction in the 2nd house, strong sexual energy. Baba also had a Neptune-Venus conjunction, showing magnetism, imagination. Full Moon in natal chart.

Ramakrishna (2/18/1836 5:00am Karmatanr, India) wrote a book The Gospel According to RamaKrishna, another good read. Strong spiritual being, had gender issues, involved with Kali Temples. He dressed as a woman during meditation, trying to entice Rama to come see him. A Sun-Uranus conjunction with Mercury and the Moon involved in Pisces show deep ecstasy, deep spiritual trance. Also has Neptune-Mars conjunction. His famous quote came in response to his students' question, "If God is everywhere, why do we need practices?" He replied that until you can spontaneously burst into tears of joy at the sound of God's name, continue the practices. Strong Grand Trine.

On the question of orbs – I use wide orbs. Use aspect by sign rather than degree usually. 1° Virgo and 29° Sagittarius are a trine by degree, but I call it a square because the energies of the signs are square.

It's been a pleasure being here with you today...

