

# *Philip Sedgwick*

# The Centaurs



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At our November meeting, Philip Sedgwick entertained us with an informative and fascinating discussion of the Centaurs, half-human, half-horse creatures of mythology. They are the small asteroids originating in the Kuiper Belt, an area on the edge of our solar system consisting of objects made up of frozen gas and dust. They have been pulled into the orbits of the planets of our solar system and orbit elliptically between Jupiter and Neptune. Twenty-six of the Centaurs have been discovered to date, but not all have as yet been named. When we do not yet know what things mean and they have an orbit, we can begin to derive a general sense of the meaning by examining the closest contact they make to the sun (perihelion) and also to the North Node, and that's what we do with the as yet unnamed Centaurs.

## **Chiron – Wise King**

The first Centaur to be discovered and named was the planetoid Chiron on November 1, 1977, at 4° Taurus, with both a perihelion and North Node in Libra, and an orbit of 50.13 years. The discovery of Chiron coincided with the birth of the Holistic Healing Movement.

Chiron was the immortal Wise King of the Centaurs, gifted in the arts of healing and statesmanship, mentor to heroes and kings. Chiron was accidentally wounded by one of Hercules' poison arrows, and because he was immortal, the wound could not heal, and he suffered greatly. In time, he exchanged

places with Prometheus, who

had been chained to a rock and was daily attacked by vultures, in punishment for having given fire to humanity. By freeing Prometheus and taking his place, Chiron gave up his immortality and was allowed to die. The theme of Chiron is acceptance of your wound leading to compassion for the suffering of others, and so Chiron is known as the Wounded Healer.

The stories of the Centaurs give us insight into our own psyches. The Centaurs were sensual, sentient beasts dedicated to gratifying the sensations of living on earth. Philip feels that they are being discovered at this time because we are losing our connections with physical life. When Chiron was discovered over 20 years ago, we learned of healing with physical sustenance through Naturopathy, Homeopathy, the integration of Oriental and Western medicine, and Energy Healing. But now we are being inundated with electronic connections everywhere, stimulated by something artificial with radiation that agitates the natural human form into a chaotic state. Note the increase of ADD in children brought on by too much TV, electronic games, etc., that agitate the physical brain. Centaurs are concerned with the relationship of body and soul. At any Centaur return in your chart, consider a ceremony connected to earth.

For example, at your Chiron return at 50.13 years, you need to do a soul retrieval to bring spirit back into the body for physical healing. Use something that causes

vibration in your body, like drums. Drums cause a change in the vibration of the body and allow the spirit to come back in. Or, go to a cave and do a vision quest. Also, you can do a symbolic burial; cover yourself with leaves or desert sand. The Centaurs require physical activity. They will help you to heal, but you must participate and get grounded, here on the planet.

## **Pholus – Pacifist Wise & Just**

Along with Chiron, another exception to ordinary Centaurs at the mercy of their instincts and appetites was Pholus. Pholus was a pacifist, both wise and just. His perihelion and North Node are in Cancer. He represents dietary change, one that is in the interest of health, but feeds your spirit. Pholus, keeper of the sacred wine, also represents a voluntary change in drinking status. Alcohol was originally used to create an ecstatic condition in which it was easier to see the divine, as opposed to getting out of our physical connections, as we use it now. We can observe ceremony or ritual by giving a toast to the sun using our morning coffee or tea. We can greet the dawn and celebrate each new day on earth.

Pholus is presently located at 8° Scorpio 32', and has a 91.2-year orbit, so while you may not ever have a Pholus return, you will have a Pholus opposition at 45.6 years of age and a Pholus square at 22.8 years. Pholus may influence you at these times to make voluntary changes in your eating or drinking habits in order to heal your body and energize your spirit.

### **Nessus – Black Sheep**

We come now to Nessus, the black sheep of the Centaurs, who represents the dark thoughts and undesirable traits that people have. His perihelion is in Libra, with the North Node in Taurus, denoting relationships. Nessus aids in fighting a desire for money and materialism and represents healing of greed and avarice. He asks “How much money or things do you need?” You needn’t be poor, but when you have enough to be comfortable, stop!

Nessus also represents beginning sexual healing as applied to intimacy and nurturing wounds – a loss of touch experienced as we grow older and away from our parents. Healing of these wounds will come through matriarchal forms. In the days of the Centaurs, the flame of Vesta was kept alive in the temples, representing female life force energy. We need to be aware of new levels of healing in female-related issues, coming to culmination with the Venus eclipses of 2004 and 2012.

With a 121-year orbit, you will find your Nessus opposition at age 60½, with the square at age 30, coinciding with your Saturn return! Most people have Nessus in Taurus or Gemini; Nessus is presently at 5° Capricorn 42’ – do you need sensual healing at this point in your chart? Again, with a Centaurian healing, a ceremony is essential. The easiest way to incorporate Nessus and to heal sensory deprivation is to get a massage! Also, wear clothing that feels nice, or buy something new to wear that makes both your body and spirit feel good by wearing it.

### **Asbolus – Centaur Seer**

Next in Philip’s narrative is Asbolus, the seer of the Centaurs. His orbital perihelion is in Capricorn, with the North Node in Aries. Presently, he is stationed at

12° Sagittarius 44’. Asbolus, as seer, represents the intuitive element in our beings. Those with Asbolus on the angles of their charts may be more intuitive than others. When Spirit sends you a physical warning, interpret it intuitively, and back off from what you are attempting to do. For example, if the gas stations are closed, postpone your trip; don’t try to get over the mountain with not enough gas in your car. Asbolus admonishes us to be aware of physical warnings, interpret them wisely, and act accordingly.

### **Charilko – Chiron’s Wife**

Philip continued with the tale of Charilko, who was Chiron’s wife. This Centaur has a 62.6-year orbit, with the perihelion in Libra and the North Node in Aquarius, representing boundary distortions. Aquarius represents your outer aura and what you think you have to say to the world, along with the distance you keep from unfamiliar people. With Libra working, you desire closeness to the ones you love and associate more closely with. Charilko asks the question, “What are you looking at?”, defining psychological boundaries. Charilko was a consort of Pallas Athena and worked in the temple as a sacred prostitute, offering female healing (closeness/Libra) in an anonymous way (unemotional/Aquarius).

Charilko also asks the question, “What is your intent?”. She asks us to define our actions in social situations. She is related to solving harassment issues in the workplace, as noted by her presence at 8° Virgo 58’. A ceremony to invoke Charilko would be to close your eyes, extend your hands and feel the energy of someone’s aura, its extension and its boundaries.

### **Hylonome – Suicide Ending Pain**

Hylonome, with an orbit of 124.3 years, has a perihelion in Libra and the

North Node in Virgo. She presently resides at 2° Scorpio 16’. When Hylonome was found in the charts of many suicide victims, astronomers seeking to name this Centaur accepted the suggestion of astrologers to use Hylonome, as befit the Centaur who killed herself with the same spear by which her lover was killed. Not being able to bear living without him, she represents suicides that kill themselves to end pain.

Hylonome asks, “What value do you assign to yourself in relationships? Can you cope with change and/or loss? Does it alter your self esteem to be with a particular person?” We can use Hylonome to shed grief, to let go of how we feel diminished. Also, we need to let go of the IDEA that we messed up somehow. Look to the Midheaven in your charts to aid you in how to become self-assertive and non-judgmental.

### **Centaurs in Our Lives**

By incorporating the Centaurs in our lives, we will find society becoming more peaceful, less warlike. The Centaurs offer antidotes and ceremonial, celebratory rituals for social maladies and social adjustment disorders. Philip warned us, however, that becoming too metaphysical can be a hazard, because spending time off the planet diminishes the necessary physical connection we need to our Earth. The Centaurs can help us stay grounded and re-establish our physical connections in order to energize our souls. Let us, then, eat, drink, and be merry with many thanks to Philip Sedgwick!