



Major Sky - New Moon May 2008 - Issue 29

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Produced, written and designed by Maurice Fernandez: www.mauricefernandez.com

A Month in a Life

Below is an analysis of key configurations operating during the coming month. A brief introspection into the nature and intent of these influences is provided for your attention and research.



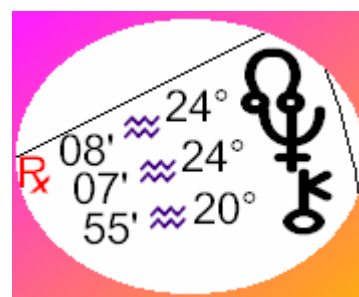
Neptune conjunct the North Node (24° Aquarius)

May 4, 2008

Every 17 years or so, Neptune conjuncts the North Node.

Previous conjunctions include:

October 1991:	14° Capricorn
December 1974:	10° Sagittarius
February 1958:	4° Scorpio
July 1941:	25° Virgo



Any planet that conjuncts the Nodal Axis is amplified in its influence on both the collective and personal levels. Neptune on the North Node is a very interesting phenomenon because Neptune represents the collective as an archetype! It embodies the oneness that transcends individual differences. Therefore, as it touches the Nodes, events that affect the masses and the fundamental needs shared by all livings take the forefront!

We all know about the threat of global warming and the collective awakening about the need to reunite humans (Aquarius) with nature (Neptune), but when was the last time that food scarcity became a threat to the collective? As rice and other basic staple prices skyrocket, mass protests erupt in different parts of the world. Neptune represents both the rich and the poor, while food prices affect the lower classes first, the housing crisis and gas prices rise are evidently weakening the higher socio-economic echelon! With a disappearing middle class, instability and chaos intrinsic to Neptune settle in. And the message is? Neptune in Aquarius: We need to decondition our minds, and once the slate is blank again, rewrite what our priorities should be!

Going back to previous occurrences, in July 1941 when the conjunction occurred in Virgo, Hitler order that the “final solution” be designed as soon as possible! On a more positive note, in February 1958 with Neptune and the North Node in Scorpio, *the peace symbol* was designed, commissioned by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. The 1974 conjunction saw the Watergate scandal causing a chain reaction over the course of many months as Neptune and the North Node were in Sagittarius, and in 1991 with the conjunction in Capricorn, several ex-communist countries of eastern Europe gained independence.

A combination of potential massive disasters and blessings, Neptune on the North Node modifies the fundamentals. The current transit happens to conjunct Chiron, oppose Saturn, semi-sextile Jupiter and Uranus, and in the course of June, oppose Mars! The

next couple of months are likely to be dramatic. Consider on the one hand a celestial gate is opening allowing for new insights and inspiration to filter into our consciousness. On the other hand, consider that for the deconditioning process, chaos may be necessary: In Aquarius, social issues will keep making the headlines, but we must also be prepared for natural events (earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes), even beyond the consequences of the economical floundering.

In a positive vein, consider our own astrology community holding one of its largest events ever at UAC, where all astrology streams are represented en masse.

This is what all of us perhaps can benefit from this transit; seeing it as an opportunity for mass awakening. As we are better informed today than ever before (Aquarius), corrective measures to curb global warming or inspiration to further develop new energy resources can take a significant step forward. This is a time for a revolution; we just cannot predict the scale of it, but be sure that new seeds are being planted in our consciousness during this time!

Order 3 sessions Workshop about the Transit of Neptune in Aquarius:

Session 1: *Neptune on the North Node opposing Saturn in Virgo (Collective Karma)*

Session 2: *The conjunction to Chiron, the semi sextile to Jupiter in Capricorn and Uranus in Pisces (Liberating the spirit)*

Session 3: *The opposition to Mars in Leo, en route to conjunct Saturn in Virgo (Savior or Destroyer)*

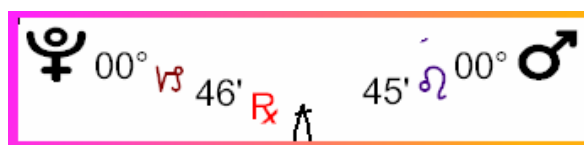
(3 sessions for \$145)



Mars entering Leo – Quincunx Pluto

(0°Leo - Capricorn)

May 11, 2008



With Mars entering Leo we may say that we are finally over the seemingly never-ending Mars in Cancer cycle which took us through the highs and lows on a hormonal roller coaster!

While Mars had opposed Pluto for pretty much 6 months on and off during its ride through Cancer and Gemini, it is now time for the quincunx aspect! The good news is that this aspect will only last a few days, but is the drama really over?! Mars in Leo, come on... this is the sweetest drama candy one could ask for!

The quincunx (150° aspect), also called inconjunct, is a very intense aspect that has for evolutionary purpose to humble the ego regarding the energies involved. It implies that corrective measures are needed to curb excesses or various misuses of resources. With

Mars in Leo and Pluto in Capricorn can it get more obvious that leadership must be questioned? This is true on a political level, but also in your own private domain. With stories such as a father imprisoning his daughters in cellars for 24 years in the background, this may be a time for a personal reflection upon our own power trips, obsessions, jealousy, and greed! Can we readjust and find a way to express our creative selves without crushing others' feet?!

People may experience a crisis that pressures them to observe the way they have been behaving. It may also occur that one will expose the bullying attitude of another person or authority towards them; one may stand on either end of the equation, victim or perpetrator. In one way or another, this aspect reflects the need for proper leadership and the right use of power. If your kids confront you because you misbehave, try and listen...

Issues regarding children will be quite relevant all throughout Mars's transit through Leo. Children may be targeted or the subject of a fight and struggle. Custody issues coming to surface, other horror stories of abuse making the headlines? Try not to get sucked into avoidable conflicts with your own. On a positive note, those of you who had a hard time getting pregnant, there you go... sperm will swim faster than ever – the only way is up with Mars in Leo! Your children may also experience a breakthrough during this period of time and make parents proud!

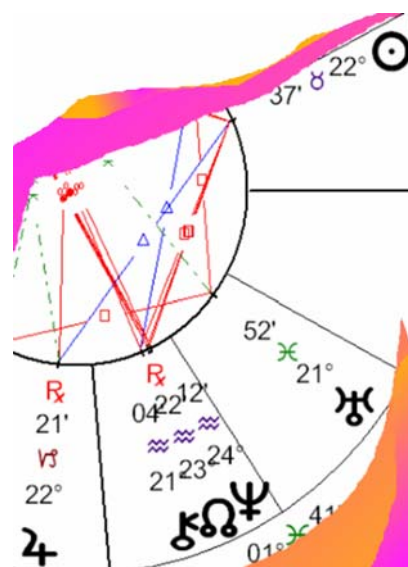
We will keep discussing Mars in Leo's transit in the next issues, especially as it will conjunct the South Node and oppose Neptune in the course of June – Watch the *Major Sky* for the updates!



Jupiter sextile Uranus sextile Sun (22° Capricorn/Pisces/Taurus) May 12, 2008

A rare alignment in our skies emerges during the month of May. Six celestial factors aspect each other around the 22nd degree of their signs: Jupiter, Chiron, The North Node, Neptune, Uranus and the Sun have a story to share, and we are trying to understand it!

Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus all represent a different aspect of our higher mind and spiritual development: Jupiter speaks of our intuition, Uranus of our objective consciousness, and Neptune embodies the neutral nature of the immutable Truth. Such a cluster is bound to foster higher inspiration and vision. As our world currently suffers from failed leadership and the consequences of radical insecurity, solutions may now be “downloaded” from higher spheres.



This trio alone can stimulate grass root movements towards social change - an awakening of sorts. On a more personal level, it is time for more objectivity and clarity. If you have been swept away by the emotional tornado generated by late Mars in Cancer, now is time to reflect and understand what happened and why. The higher mind intervenes to provide perspective and solutions. It is a time for detachment and transcendence.

Chiron tied to Neptune and the North Node in Aquarius adds to the healing potential; here in Aquarius, it exposes the consequences of blind progress. Beyond pollution and toxic waste, it is interesting to assess that the recent food crisis is partially generated by biofuel development. As fields of corn are now being used for energy resource, it is inevitable that prices are increasing. Chiron in Aquarius raises the awareness about the potential to run forward a little too fast in search for a quick fix.

While the Sun in Taurus is not necessarily related to transcendence and projected vision, it acts as a creative vehicle to practically implement inspired solutions in the here and now. Without it, it would be harder to have theory put into practice. While the Sun moves forward relatively fast, it does symbolically carry its imprint onto its next destinations. The Taurus quality also emphasizes that many of the issues have to do with the earth – agriculture, natural resources, and our lives “down here” in general deserve the stage at this point.



Chart Interpretation and Kundalini Yoga
SEATTLE - June 21 & 22, 2008

Day 1 – *Mind and Spirit*
Chart interpretation techniques
Submit your chart for the study!

Day 2 – *Body and Spirit*
Kundalini Yoga
Yoga set to open the heart center, special meditation, Yogic numerology,
focus on nutrition with an actual taste of yogic cuisine!

***With an exact Mars/Neptune opposition on the Nodes this weekend,
what better thing to do than immerse yourself into spiritual
activities and merge heaven and earth.***

Email Maurice Fernandez for registrations:
majorsky@earthlink.net

Interview – Melanie Reinhart

Don't miss Melanie Reinhart's presentations at UAC:

- Chiron and the Sacred Labyrinth
- The Centaurs Pholus and Nessus
- Myth, Archetype and Astrology

Website: www.melaniereinhart.com

Email: enquiries@melaniereinhart.com

~ astrologer, teacher, writer, musician~



Your family and relationships?

I have been married, but divorced a long time ago. No children, and at present I'm not in a relationship.

Religious background and conditioning?

Was raised in a non-religious family, but went to a convent school for educational reasons. My preparation for Confirmation into the Anglican

Church at age 11 proved quite pivotal, especially as I had already discovered astrology. This was at my first Chiron square, to its natal position in Sagittarius. When we were told that good Christians would go to Heaven when they died, I asked 'What about all those of other faiths?' I was told they couldn't go to Heaven. I was so horrified that would lie awake at night crying and worrying. I decided to find out for myself what others would say. So I used to cycle to a different church every Sunday, aged 12, much to the bewilderment of my parents. When I attended a Spiritualist Church, I was 'told' by the clairvoyant on the stage that I had healing powers and should start 'The Work'. Having no idea what this meant, I went to speak to the church healer, a very gifted woman. I trained with her for four years, and was opened to the philosophy and beliefs of Tibetan Buddhism, through her spirit guide. This seemed 'no big deal' to me, but this was a very unusual path to open up in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in the early 1960s, with sanctions and 'guerilla war', and very much an agrarian economy and culture. During the 1970s, I lived in a spiritual community under the guidance of Sufi master Pir O'Murshid Fazal Inayat Khan, a radical iconoclast. This was also the 'laboratory' in which I learned most of the astrology I know, by observing people in deep processes of soul.

Spiritual orientation - Do you follow any specific practice?

There are three main practices which have been important to me for a long time:

- For the mind - Vipassana meditation
- For the heart - singing and chanting
- For the body - Chi Gung



What's the worst thing and then, the best thing about you?

I don't know if other people would say the same thing... but I've been called a 'Drama Queen', prone to exaggeration and emotionality, getting 'carried away'. And then I have severe timidity and pessimism on the other side. I don't anger easily, but if I am hurt beyond a certain point, it takes me a lot of inner work to forgive. The best thing about me ... I have a good capacity to process suffering and emerge renewed, a knack for attracting interesting people and situations into my life, and I have a good sense of humour. I am also multi-talented, although not a master of all the things I try, of course. I've enjoyed many creative activities - writing, painting, drawing, sculpting, carving, etc.

What do you most value in people?

Emotional accessibility, honesty, humour, good communication, kindness.

What makes you angry? B-e-a-u-r-o-c-r-a-c-y !!!

What is in your pocket/purse right now?

Lots of 'stuff', but my favourite thing is a tiny notebook for 'all purposes'. It has schedule and diary notes, astro-data of events, little poems that come to me, cartoons, drawings,

information, etc. Each one as it fills is like a little treasure, the real 'stuff of life'! Also my newly acquired SatNav, which I am enjoying using.

You never tried..

Things like absailing or water ski-ing! I've never been 'sporty' although I am very physical, connected with my body and senses.

You can't refuse..

A concert of Indian music, particularly Dhruvad vocal.

What is playtime for you?

Listening to or playing music, talking with friends, walking in the woods. Reading or writing poetry. Also cooking and gardening.

Your animal totem?

The elephant and also the lion. They are considered the matriarchs and patriarchs of the bush where I come from.

Your superstition?

Must have one somewhere - couldn't find it!

Your Chinese sign: Earth Ox

What would you define is an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life?

Learning to be alone.

Favorite book?

Can't think of one overall favorite, but I have sequential favorites in different categories. I don't often read novels, but one that I loved was 'The Mists of Avalon' by Marion Bradley. I love to read inspirational writings from the great mystics and spiritual teachers. And picture books with photographs of deep space, especially the work of David Malin. A small inspirational book called 'I Am With You' which I picked up in the chapel at Luton airport. Anything by Pema Chodron or Stephen Levine.

Favorite astrology book?

If I was only allowed to own one astrology book, it would definitely be 'New Mansions for New Men' by Dane Rudhyar.

Favorite movie? Ziffarelli's 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon' and maybe also the 'Whale Rider'.

Favorite piece of music? Bach's B Minor Mass

Your favorite place on earth?

The Great Zimbabwe Ruins and also Chartres Cathedral.

Favorite planet or spatial object?

I love to look at the Bull Constellation and this area of the sky with the Hyades, Pleiades and all the bright stars there.



General Information about your practice

Where do you live and practice?

I live in a small cottage on the edge of the woods, in rural Bedfordshire. I see clients 'live' in North London, and also do phone work from home.

Your specialty in Astrology?

I have studied Chiron and the Centaurs in people's horoscopes for a long time now, and this has become a 'speciality', although I do not consider myself an expert. There is always more to learn. I particularly enjoy working with clients who can use astrology as a resource for their inner journey of awakening, and I am fortunate in that I tend to attract this kind of client. Astrology provides an incredibly accurate, rich and inspiring language with which to dialogue about deep soul processes.

How long have you been practicing - How did it start?

I did my first professional reading in November 1975, and the following year I also facilitated experiential learning groups, both of which I still do. I cannot remember a point where I 'declared' that I would become a professional astrologer; it just grew as a natural extension of my interest and studies.

How long are your counseling sessions?

Initial sessions are usually 90 minutes, although I also offer shorter initial sessions if there is a particular focus to be addressed. Any follow-up sessions likewise.

List of your published work

Chiron and the Healing Journey

(currently being revised for republishing)

Saturn, Chiron and the Centaurs

(CPA Press)

Incarnation:

The Four Angles and the Moon's Nodes

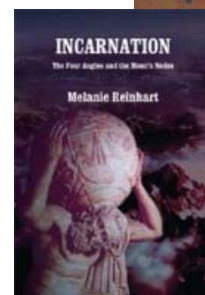
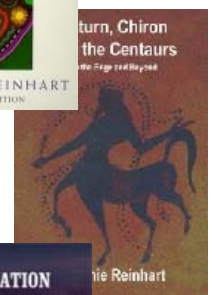
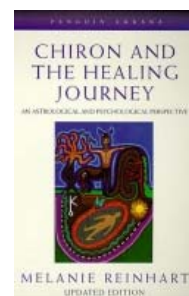
(CPA Press)

Anthologies to which I've contributed:

The Mars Quartet

Modern South Africa in Search of a Soul

The Healing Wilderness



I have written regularly for the magazine '*Caduceus*' for almost ten years, and some of those articles are archived on my website.

I've also had material published in the Journal of the Astrological Association

There is usually a selection of topical material on my website, also.

Besides making a living, what are the purposes of your work, what motivates you to do it?

I am passionately interested in how the inner world and the outer world intersect in people's lives, and I value the opportunity to speak in depth with people about things which really matter to them. I love researching material for lectures and seminars, and I also look forward to the times when I engage in more contemplative work. If I have the opportunity to re-introduce people to the notion of a sacred universe with which they are intimately connected, I feel inspired and grateful.

What are your current projects professionally?

I am revising '*Chiron and the Healing Journey*', which is a big task, as the original was written more than 20 years ago. There have been many new astronomical discoveries relevant to Chiron, and also lots of developments in the 'collective'. I will also publish under my own imprint this time round.

I will be providing musical accompaniment for the reading of new translations of some of the works of the Sufi mystic Ibn Arabi, including the '*Theophany*'.



Imagine a world with Neptune in Pisces and Pluto in Capricorn.

Watery delicate waves of transcendent feeling, opening, moving, sliding like tidal flows on the shifting beach, the sand-ground of earthen edges, stones, rocks transforming. Sea-goat sits mermaid-like on raven black boulders piled on the border between the flow and the firm. The Grace of Impermanence is real. May we feel it so.

What are your thoughts on the Uranus/Saturn opposition on November 4th 2008?

Quite subjective, as they are dual rulers of my IC. I am considering life-style themes, already changing things in my home, re-fitting, renovating, re-organising. Also I wrote the first edition of '*Chiron*' while they were conjunct, and opposite my Mercury! The focus was incredibly intense. I feel this energy will help with completing the revision. November 4th is also very near Samhain, the Celtic Festival which ushers in the darkest part of the year, and which coincides with All Saints and All Souls day in the Christian calendar. I love this time of year, when 'the veils' are said to be very thin. I usually try

to avoid speculations about 'the world', but I do spend time attuning to the energy.



Your Position on the current state of Astrology

Astrology in the Future?

Hard to say. Astrology has been part of human culture since maybe before the beginning of history as we know it. While I don't think astrology will disappear, I think that the way it is defined, presented and used will probably need to change to address the incoming needs of people. We must stop bowing to secular fundamentalism and honour our spiritual roots.

Are you satisfied with the current developmental flow of astrology?

How to define the 'developmental flow of astrology' really? It depends where you are, what society you live in. My experience here in the UK astrological community, although similar in many ways to astrology elsewhere, is also unique to this place, for example. English society has a profound spirituality which is not of the 'fanfare' variety, being rather discreet and downplayed. However, the surface of this society has a brittle, rational-fundamentalist edge to it, which is not astrology-friendly. The good news is that the developments within academia here are making a really solid contribution to astrology's future.

I personally feel, however, that the very nature of what astrology is really about means that it cannot, indeed must not, be unduly influenced by the egoic wish for acceptability in the eyes of society, whether through academic, statistical, psychological or indeed any other means. It is more important that we uphold the vision of a world sacred and ensouled, which connects heaven and earth, as in the ancient Hermetic tradition.

Since I was first interested in astrology, I have observed a huge diversification. Back then, it was possible to read almost everything that was currently in print and easily available. Now that would be impossible! While I enjoy learning about all the different approaches, styles and technological facilities, I also observe that astrology tends to reflect the distortions of the society in which it functions. This is both a weakness and a strength. So the current weakness is glitz without substance, slickness without soul. If we fall prey to notionality, meaning operating from concepts rather than from a spiritual energy reality, we cannot touch the soul, and then we simply disconnect from what is real.



Are you satisfied with the dynamics and developments within the astrology community on a local and global basis?

I believe there is value in discretion, and remaining 'hidden'. While it is obviously important to make our presence known, and thus to be available, I have never felt comfortable with any form

of evangelism about astrology, nor attempts to 'prove' anything to anyone, nor defend anything. I feel it is preferable to 'sound the tone' in a true way, as people will hear that and find their own way to astrology, as clients or students, or not. But there are always aspects of the work which will remain hidden anyway, as they have to do with the internal processes of soul which are touched by astrology's information, language and meaning. This is what people both fear and long for.

Suggestions to make the astrology world a better place?

I would like to see more discernment, instead of 'right/wrong' arguments within the field. Different astrological techniques and approaches simply suit different purposes. There can never be a 'one size fits all' in astrology, thank goodness! We live in a global culture within which conformism and standardization are more and more the 'norm', and I would not want to see the world of astrology become contaminated with that way of thinking. We need to be 'in the world and not of it' (to quote the famous description of the mystic) rather than 'of the world and not in it' (ungrounded secular fundamentalism).

Because astrology has been central to all the major Wisdom Traditions of the past, it is also the bearer of a long and venerable tradition. This carries considerable responsibility and requires dedicated spiritual work. I would like to see this emphasized and clarified. At the same time, the world of astrology is no different than any other world, in that it is made up of human beings with all their beauty and also their flaws. If each one of us does the best we can, on all levels, inner and outer, and pledges kindness and respect for one another, whether or not we agree with their approach, that is enough.



The Educational Room

➔ Health Tips

The interesting May configurations bring several contrasts that may have an affect on health issues: Earth energy abounds as *planets pass through the sign of Taurus and trine Jupiter and Pluto in Capricorn*. However, *Neptune and Chiron in Aquarius* squaring the Taurus planets inspire transcendence and detachment from the material dimension! The erratic shift from attachment to detachment, from being in the body and then leaving it can take its toll!

Naturally, the first ones to take the blow are the nervous and immune systems, both potentially failing to adapt to the conflicting messages. Taurus and Aquarius have radically different rhythms, and unless the person does conscious work to integrate both, the change of gears from slow pace to fast pace can be hard to control.

Nervous system reactions may manifest in disturbed sleep patterns, numbness and loss of sensation, or erratic moods. Immune system symptoms can range from mild allergies (food and spring blossoms), to more serious disorders that disrupt energy management and glandular secretion.

A way to better manage this dichotomy is to honor both sides; on the one hand be “here and now” and get in touch with your body, and on the other hand engage in activities that stimulate transcendence. Here are a few examples:

Taurus: Create security and regularity in your life, find creative ways to generate a relatively steady cash flow, enjoy the spring fruits, hike in nature, get a massage.

Aquarius: Meditate, do yoga, engage in positive social interactions, explore the possibility for change in your life, contemplate the possibilities of your future, use your wisdom to avoid getting sucked into negative emotional spirals.

> Foods for the nervous system: Olives and olive oil, celery (juice), ginger, onions.

> Foods for the immune system: Honey, red grapefruit, berries, garlic.

As Mars moves into Leo, in combination with Neptune in Aquarius, attention must be paid to blood circulation. Too low blood pressure for some and too high blood pressure for others can affect heart function. Moderate exercise, pranic type of food, and a combination of creative outlets with relaxation should be integrated. Mars in Leo is about doing and feeling alive; without creative outlets the energy may stagnate inside one’s system and cause disruptions (bad circulation). So, get out there and have a bite at life... don’t let the gas prices bring you down!

Suggestions for low blood pressure: Ginseng, raw garlic, cayenne pepper, plenty of liquid, eat in smaller quantities, complete your shower with cold stream or apply cold water stream to the extremities of your arms and feet.

Suggestions for high blood pressure: Reduce sodium and caffeine intake, ingest raw garlic, omega 3, celery (juice), greens. and ... Don't forget to take time for relaxation!

Keep in mind that each body type has its own needs. These suggestions are generalized and you must assess on your own if they do work for you. If symptoms are strong, don't hesitate to consult a professional.

➔ Focus of the Month: **Pet Astrology**

You've guessed it: Dogs and cats have astrology charts too! The birth data, and especially time of birth may not be easily accessible, but even using a solar chart can be proven useful.

Beyond understand the distinct personality of the animal, having a chart may be useful for finding a right time for medical interventions. But for the sake of this article, let's focus on the personality factor. Those who do not live with animals tend to generalize their character based on the nature of the species. Commonly cats are stereotyped as indifferent and opportunists, while dogs as friendly and affectionate. What about my Scorpio dog who would never utter a noise and live for his long lonely trips in the neighbourhood? He used to escape and get his kick from roaming in search of interesting female scents, but had utter disinterest in human beings!

I had a downstairs neighbour whose dog gave birth to seven puppies when 5 planets, including Mars, were aligned in Aries! That was in late March 1998. These puppies were completely hyperactive and exhibited signs of accentuated aggressiveness early on – Mars/Saturn conjunct in Aries tells the story! A couple of them ended up guard dogs.

I have the exact date and time of birth of one of my cats. She is a double Virgo! One way it shows is that she dislikes sand. This can be a problem when every litter box must be filled with sand. I tried the organic type and so on, but to no avail, Virgo and sand do not mix. What ended up working for her is empty litter boxes... that solved the nightmare of having to clean after her urine pools all over the living room!

When Jupiter crossed her Libra Ascendant and was right on her North Node degree, she moved to the United States, flying over two continents and an ocean! I didn't plan that on purpose, I swear; it was purely circumstantial...

Astrology works for animals too!



Article by Maurice Fernandez



The Evolution of Consciousness through Reincarnation

Christopher's Quilt Trip



A preview on reincarnation themes in the birth chart

Analyzing an astrology chart from the perspective of the evolution of consciousness, I perceive a chart as a link in a greater chain of events. Considering that upon birth a baby is not a blank slate, but rather already charged with a particular character, desires, and fears, it becomes evident that these traits are not the fruit of parental imprinting from the current time and space; a newborn baby has a history. Each individual comes into this world with a completely different set of resources and potential; some say it is in the genes, others call it coincidence, but from my perspective the reason each person is unique and born into distinctively different circumstances is based on the current requirements of his or her soul's evolution.

In this light, the astrology chart describes where the soul left off in past lives and what it is focusing on in the course of this life. Each symbol in the chart has multiple layers, describing simultaneously the past, the present and the potential future of the person. As we learn about life, our consciousness expands. The more conscious we become, the better we can manage life and resources and our chances of happiness increase. Becoming fully conscious of the nature of existence and the truth is what some may call enlightenment; yet, this state of consciousness is not something one attains in the space of a single lifetime. The soul must reincarnate time after time in order to pursue its learning process and refine its skills at living.

Delving into past lives has the main purpose of acquiring a greater perspective on the present circumstances. If one yearns to understand why one person was born crippled while another with a strong support system, it can be helpful to revisit the past. This type of research requires the outmost caution because we are delving into a rather abstract dimension with mutable points of reference; yet, over time, confirmations about

the past life themes can be acquired. Astrology is a magnificent tool in this regard because it serves as a map and helps us trace the path of the person's soul; it is not about

being a psychic and seeing flashes of other dimensions, but rather about interpreting the chart symbols correctly. The main question that drives an astrologer adopting such an orientation is: "What lessons must one learn when going through a particular experience?" Some people will correctly claim that the root issues for many people can be traced to their current early lives without having to search distant past lives. This is partially true, but does not answer why a person was born into particular childhood circumstances.

Analyzing past lives through the birth chart is a work in progress. Learning is constant through trial and errors just as it is with analyzing current life dynamics. The methods of past life identification will certainly not pass scientific tests of credibility, but then, if that were our point of reference, there would be no reason to practice astrology in the first place, given that no one knows even why or how astrology works from a scientific point of view. My personal way of validating past life themes is in assessing their impact on current life circumstances. Is what I read pertinent in any way to the client's current situation and does it help resolve predicaments? This is what matters to me; although, I understand such a validation may not be proof enough for some. The purpose of this article is not about proving anything though, but rather about exploring possibilities. The study case of my client Christopher presented in the subsequent paragraphs is a good illustration of this precept.

What I extract from a birth chart are the themes that the person dealt with in those past lives; was the person involved in particular struggles? Did he or she resist uniting flesh and spirit? Is there some kind of karmic debt to be purged? These potential themes, when identified, must have some relevance to the current life of the person. We should not indulge in dramatic stories for the sake of entertainment value. Past life themes must be applied to the current life context, and following that, direction and advice is proposed to the subject with regard to the best ways to enhance one's personal evolution.

While the entire chart describes a person's past, present, and future, focusing on the Nodal Axis of the Moon has particular importance regarding past life themes being brought into the present. Planets in angular aspects to the nodes (0, 90, 180 degrees) are of paramount importance in that their influence on character and the course of personal development is significantly amplified.

Here are simplified definitions of the themes of each planet in aspect to the nodes:

Sun – Past of potential leadership and recognition for one's creativity. Themes regarding children

Moon – Past with themes of feminine prominence and matriarchal influence. Themes regarding emotional power and healing

Mercury – Past with cross-cultural experience themes, possibly involving extensive travel. Themes revolving around knowledge, writing, and teaching.

Venus – Past with finances and/or relationships themes. Possibility for strong charisma and popularity. Unresolved relationship themes.

Mars – Activism, defense, and attack themes. Possibility of ruptures and premature death. Themes of sexuality and battle between the sexes.

Jupiter – Knowledge and spirituality themes. Possibility of vision and manic behavior. Racism and religion themes

Saturn – Leadership, ethics, and morality themes. Possibility of karmic debt and need for realignment. Guilt and remorse themes.

Uranus – Community and civilization progress themes. Higher knowledge, elitism, science-over-nature themes.

Neptune – Public influence, mass effect, and sacrifice themes. Innocence and purity themes with potential for victimization. Spirituality and potential for savior's complex themes.

Pluto – Radical change and emancipation themes – destruction, death and transformation themes.

Christopher and his evolutionary lessons

Christopher came to me for a reading expressing a special interest in understanding his personal evolutionary lessons. With a heavily charged Nodal Axis populated with the Sun and Mars in Pisces on the South Node, and the Moon and Saturn in Virgo on the North Node, squared by Neptune in Sagittarius, while locking on the angles of the chart (Ascendant, Descendant and IC) (see Figure 1: Christopher's chart), I knew this soul was engaged in trying to resolve complex evolutionary dynamics!

Christopher
 Natal Chart (3)
 13 Mar 1979
 17:44 EST +5:00
 Worcester, MA
 42°N15'45" 071°W48'10"
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Koch
 Mean Node

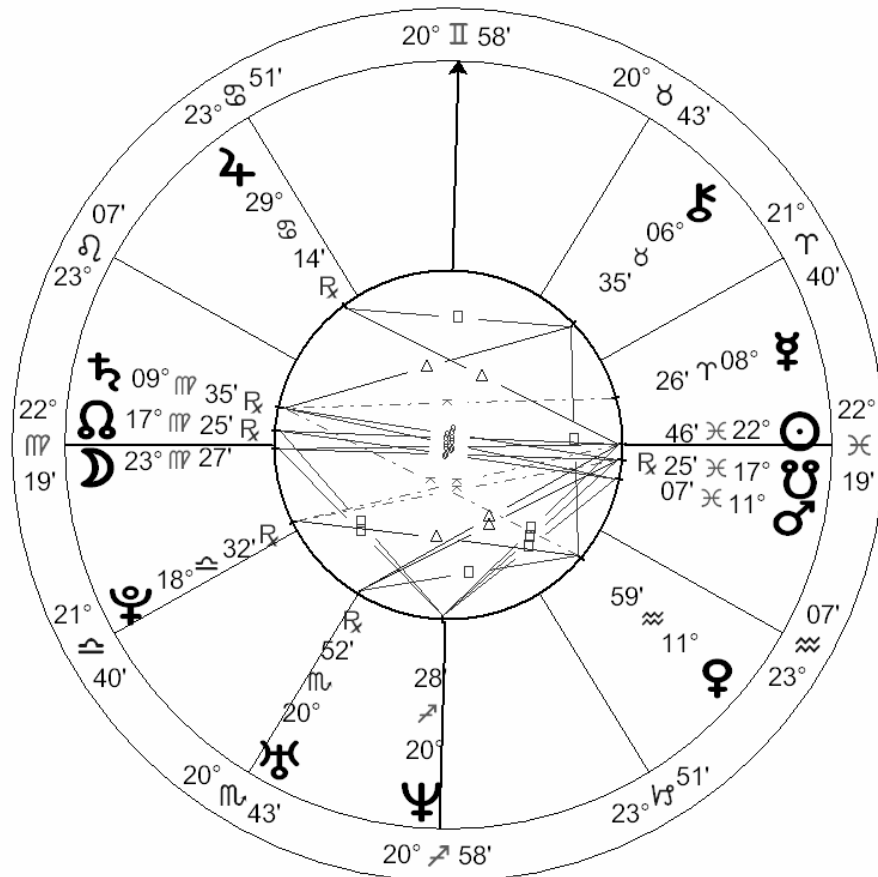


Figure 1- Christopher's Chart

The Nodal Axis themes were the main focus of my attention. Issues of purity, public service, and personal sacrifice seemed relevant. Beyond that, individuals with such a charged Pisces/Virgo axis often do not recognize their personal boundaries and tend to go through episodes of feeling invincible. They aspire for perfection, tend to be extremely idealistic, and take on way more than their mortal selves can usually handle. Deep down, they often do not really acknowledge death.

In Christopher's case, having Mars and Sun in Pisces on his South Node suggested the sense of invincibility was taken to very active and creative ends, possibly coming from a very strong need to accomplish something of large proportion. The activism aspect of Mars blended with the leadership quality of the Sun made me think this soul was a dedicated warrior, courageous, but prone to getting carried away dangerously. I find that Mars on the nodes can be one of the most difficult energies to handle and direct well with the tendency for raw emotions to overwhelm one's reason is significant. In this regard, Mars on the nodes can at times signify facing death, and sometimes even one's own. Being in Pisces and squared by Neptune gave me the impression that this dynamic had massive proportions and possibly transcended personal issues to affect the collective! This was the signature of a prominent activist-type figure, a controversial artist or scientist, or a religious zealot, who was prone to be consumed by his vision and beliefs.

On the other hand, Saturn was retrograde in Virgo, opposing that Mars! Saturn on the nodes often reflects the person feeling guilty about something and working in the course of this lifetime to realign him or herself with what is right. It can symbolize that atonement is needed for misconduct of some sort. Here in Virgo and the 12th house, the need for egocentric purification is even more intensified; Saturn in this position may reflect that the person is re-examining the divine order in this world and the role of his ego in the greater scheme of things. People with this signature can even become born-again religious inspired by “a desire to realign with divine order.” My conclusion was that something about the zealot and/or hard-core activist themes went seriously wrong and generated significant karmic debts in one or more past lives. I came to the conclusion that Christopher came into this life with a need to purge guilt caused by his actions and humble his spirit through recognizing his boundaries and accept his mortality.

The Moon in Virgo on his North Node indicated to me that Christopher was coming with healing intentions for himself and his environment. Since it is in his 1st house, a new cycle that represents the theme of healing can begin.

I discussed these issues with Christopher, emphasizing his amazing creative qualities and the issues I perceive his soul is working on, particularly, his need to understand that he is not invincible and must be more aware of his boundaries in order to proceed more effectively in life. He confirmed that he had bouts of invincibility feelings contrasted by lethargy. His health was also compromised with severe allergy issues, forcing him to “take it easy” and pay attention to details as his Virgo Moon would suggest. I also discussed his potential to actually become a healer, and if he choose so, the necessity to recognize his boundaries in that orientation as well.

Christopher meets William Mulholland

Christopher seemed to deeply resonate with the themes described in the reading, and so much so that he actually thought he knew who he might have been in a past life. I’m usually suspicious of people who think they were Jesus or Abraham in a past life, especially when the chart suggests tendencies to get carried away. However, given that he had such an intense nodal configuration including the Sun representing prominence, the possibility that he had been someone famous was feasible.

He asserted that he believed his current evolutionary lessons related to a character named **William Mulholland**. According to Mulholland’s biography in Wikipedia and other internet sources, it appeared that he was a water-services engineer in southern California during the beginning of the 20th century. He emigrated from Ireland to California with no interest in going back to that “damn Island!” Below are the significant events in Mulholland’s life:

[1]“*The 233-mile Los Angeles Aqueduct, completed in November, 1913, took water from the Owens Valley in Central California in a project requiring over 2000 workers and 164 tunnels. Water reached a reservoir in the San Fernando Valley on*

November 5. At a ceremony that day Mulholland spoke his famous words about this engineering feat: "There it is. Take it."

Without the additional water supply delivered by the aqueduct, Los Angeles could never have grown beyond 500,000 people.

The aqueduct drained the 100-square-mile Owens Lake absolutely dry by 1928, which started the California Water Wars. The acquisition of water rights had been underhanded and Owens Valley farmers resisted violently, even dynamiting the aqueduct at Jawbone Canyon in 1924.

He (Mulholland) died on July 1935 but his work lives on. Every time a faucet is turned the water it releases is a reminder of the man whose life was devoted to public service.

Mulholland's career ended fifteen years later, on March 12, 1928, when his St. Francis Dam failed just hours after being inspected by Mulholland himself, and sent 12.5 billion US gallons (47,000,000 m³) of water flooding into the Santa Clarita Valley, north of Los Angeles. A 10-story wall of water rolled down the Santa Clara riverbed at 18 mph (29 km/h) towards the sea at Ventura, and the next morning revealed unbelievable catastrophe. The town of Santa Paula lay buried under 20 feet (6 m) of mud and debris; other parts of Ventura County were covered up to 70 feet (21 m). Disaster recovery crews worked for days, and the final death count has been estimated at 450, including 42 school children. Mulholland resigned, took full responsibility for the worst US civil engineering disaster of the 20th century, and during the subsequent investigation said, "the only people I envy in this thing are the dead."

[2] Prelude to the disaster:

Throughout 1926 and 1927, several cracks appeared in the dam and its abutments, some of which leaked muddy water as the reservoir was filled. The cracks and leaks were inspected by Mulholland, who dismissed them as normal for a concrete dam the size of the St. Francis. On March 7, 1928, the reservoir was filled to capacity for the first time, whereupon damkeeper Tony Harnischfeger spotted new cracks and leaks and contacted Mulholland, who again dismissed them as normal.

The same week, motorists traveling on the road along the east shore of the reservoir reported cracks and a deepening sag in the roadbed near the dam's east abutment. By the morning of March 12th, the roadbed had sagged almost five feet (1.5 m).

The same morning of March 12, Harnischfeger discovered a new leak and immediately alerted Mulholland. Mulholland and his assistant Harvey van Norman inspected the new cracks and leaks, and once again Mulholland, convinced the leaks were relatively minor and normal for a concrete dam, pronounced the dam safe.

Christopher's chart seems to embody all the themes lived by Mulholland: the water-services engineer can surely be traced in Christopher's South Node in Pisces (water) in his 6th house (infrastructure engineer work), especially as it trines Uranus in Scorpio in his 3rd house (reinforcing the engineering aspect). Christopher's chart reflects the grandeur and even the "savior" nature of Mulholland who contributed through his work to Los Angeles's growth and prosperity, but also the tragedy resulting from zeal and over-confidence (invincibility complex). His chart reflects the pioneering nature, the fierce battles of resistance to his projects, the catastrophe causing death en-masse, and the tremendous guilt that ensued (Mars and Saturn on both ends of his Nodal Axis).

The synastry between Christopher and Mulholland is even more striking! (See Figure 2 below. Note: No birth time is available for Mulholland, this is a solar chart)

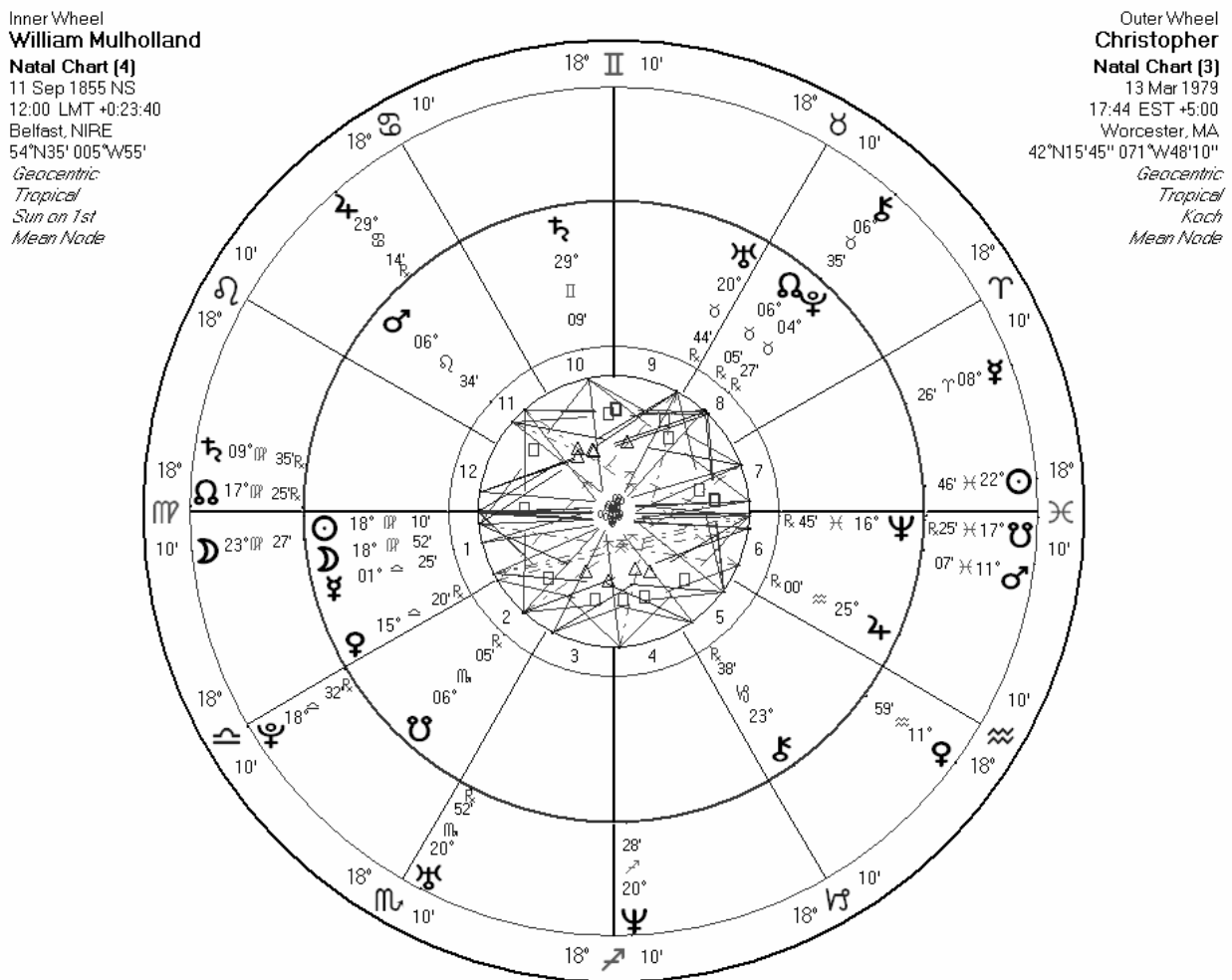


Figure 2 - Synastry between William Mulholland (inner wheel) and Christopher (outer wheel)

Mulholland's Sun/Moon conjunction lands right on Christopher's North Node. (Mulholland's Moon degree is not exact but approximate, given the lack of birth time). Astrologer Jeffrey Green has mentioned in his classes that there is often a Sun/nodes

connection between one's present and past life charts. I have personally validated that numerous times, even though I would not take that as an absolute. The Sun is the carrier of life, thus it plays an important role in inter-incarnation charts.

Mulholland's Sun/Moon in Virgo opposes his Neptune in Pisces, all landing on Christopher's heavy cluster in those signs, involving the same planets and signs (Sun/Moon/Neptune, Pisces/Virgo).

With Mars square Pluto on Mulholland's Nodes, we can identify the power struggles he stimulated and his highly defensive attitude. It also shows he had to face death and destruction in order to be reborn, evolutionarily speaking. Christopher was born with Mars on the South Node and Pluto quincunx the South Node as an echo to that theme.

Note that the day the dam collapsed (Figure 3), transiting Saturn was on the South Node, exactly squaring Mulholland's Sun/Moon! This signature reflects karma being created.

Inner Wheel
William Mulholland
Natal Chart (4)
 11 Sep 1855 NS
 12:00 LMT +0:23:40
 Belfast, NIRE
 54°N35' 005"W55'
Geocentric
Tropical
Sun on 1st
Mean Node

Outer Wheel
St Francis Dam Collapse
Natal Chart (8)
 12 Mar 1928
 23:57 PST +8:00
 Los Angeles, CA
 34°N06'43" 118°W24'40"
Geocentric
Tropical
Koch
Mean Node

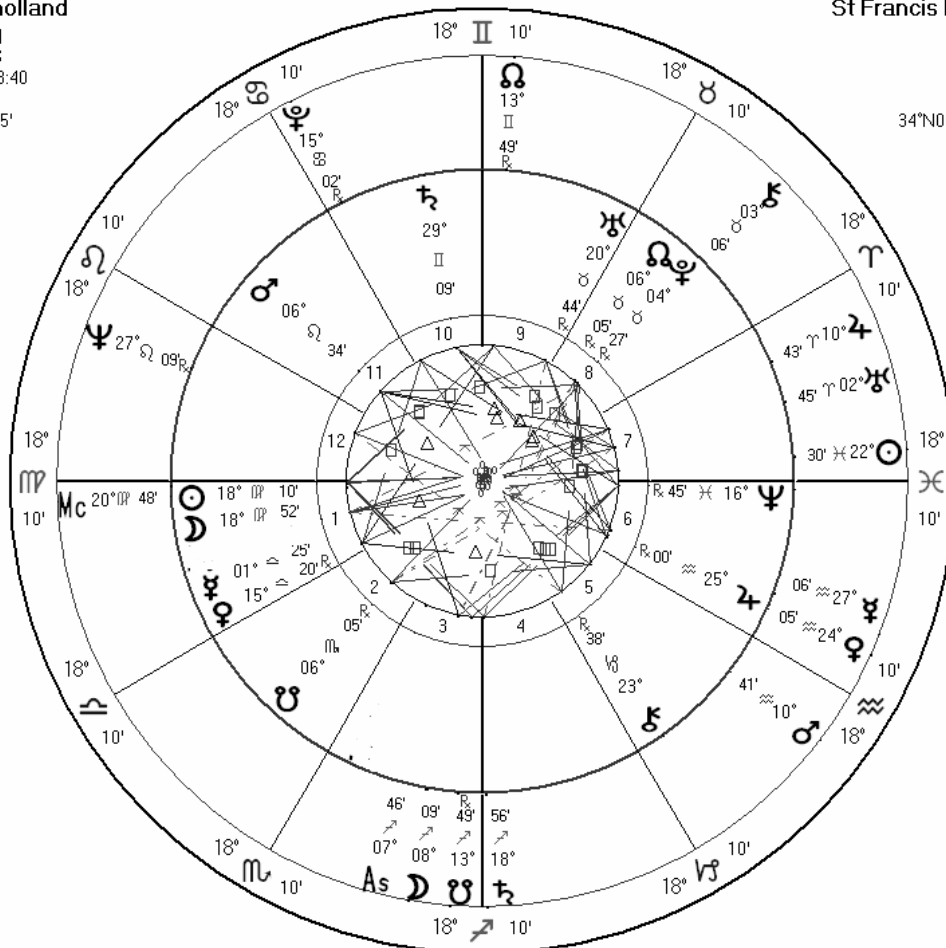


Figure 3- Synastry between William Mulholland (inner wheel) and St Francis Dam collapse (outer wheel)

Transiting Mercury in Aquarius, dispositor of Mulholland's Sun, was in opposition to transiting Neptune in Leo, showing failed engineering and resulting chaos. (Note that

Mercury was also in opposition to Neptune when the levee failed in New Orleans during hurricane Katrina.)

Transiting Chiron in Taurus is right on Mulholland’s North Node and Pluto, triggered the destructive nature of his natal Pluto/Mars square.

The dam failed 3 minutes before midnight on March 12, 1928. Christopher was born on March 13, 1979, the anniversary of the disaster! (See the Synastry: Figure 4)

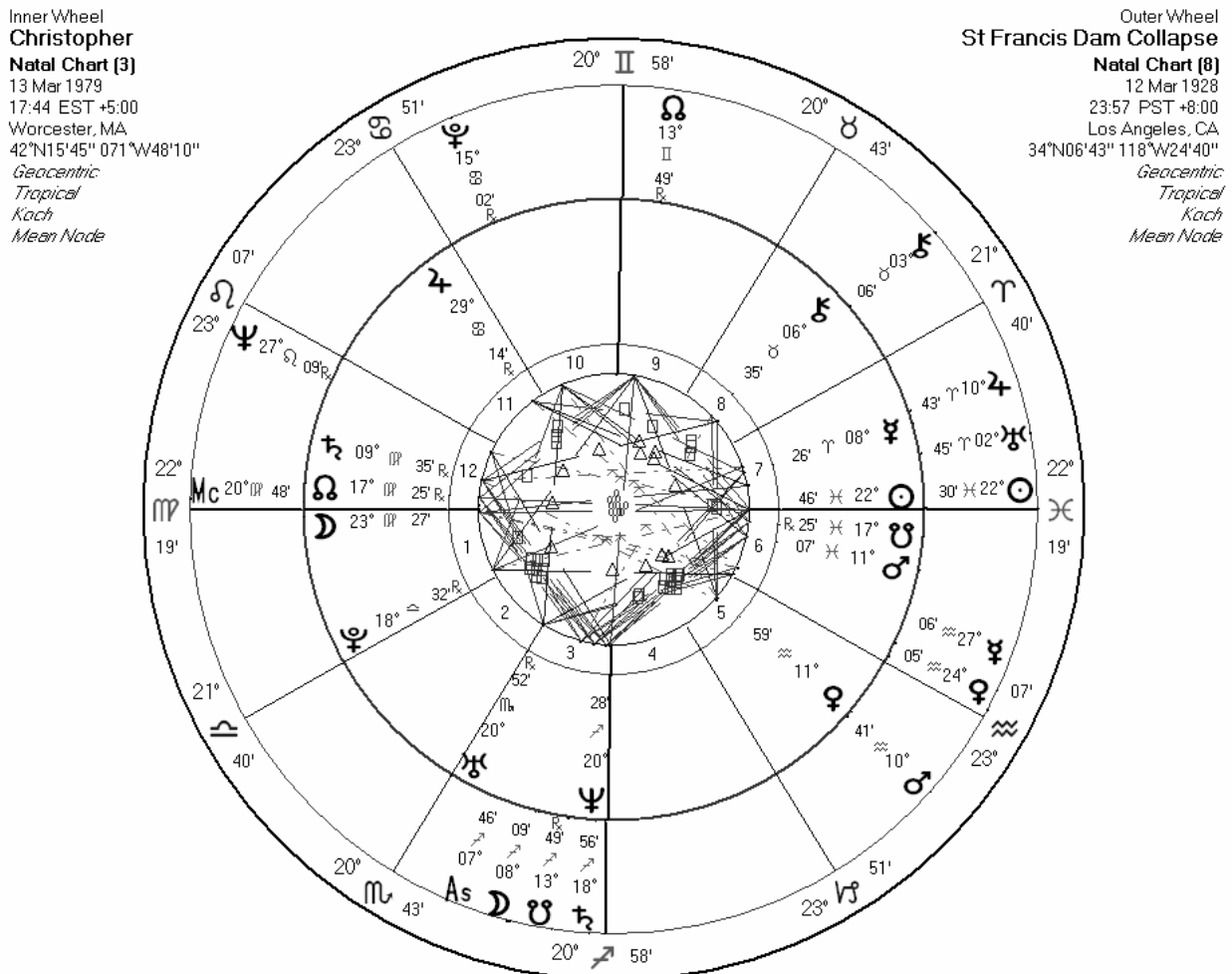


Figure 4 - Synastry between Christopher (inner wheel) and St Francis dam collapse (outer wheel)

The dam collapsed with Saturn on the South Node (signature for karmic debt being created) and Christopher was born with Saturn conjunct the North Node, squaring the dam’s signature. On both Saturn/nodes connections, the Moon is also involved.

The dam’s MC at 20 degrees Virgo is exactly squaring Christopher’s Neptune and MC, showing the chaos and collapse of authority and structure (Neptune/MC)

Christopher and the dam's collapse's Chiron are conjunct in his 8th house in Taurus, showing the wound resulting from death (8th house) due to faulty construction (Taurus). Much more can be drawn from this chart comparison, especially if including midpoints, but enough is already there to make a serious case about the connection between Christopher and the dam collapse.

The last chart worth investigating is Mulholland's death chart with Christopher in the outer wheel (Figure 5). The death chart of a person is highly significant because it describes where the individual is at, evolutionarily speaking, at the time of his or her death. Death here is a new birth in another dimension. Many evolutionary themes are described through the death chart and it is therefore a crucial moment in the sequence of event of a soul's evolutionary journey.

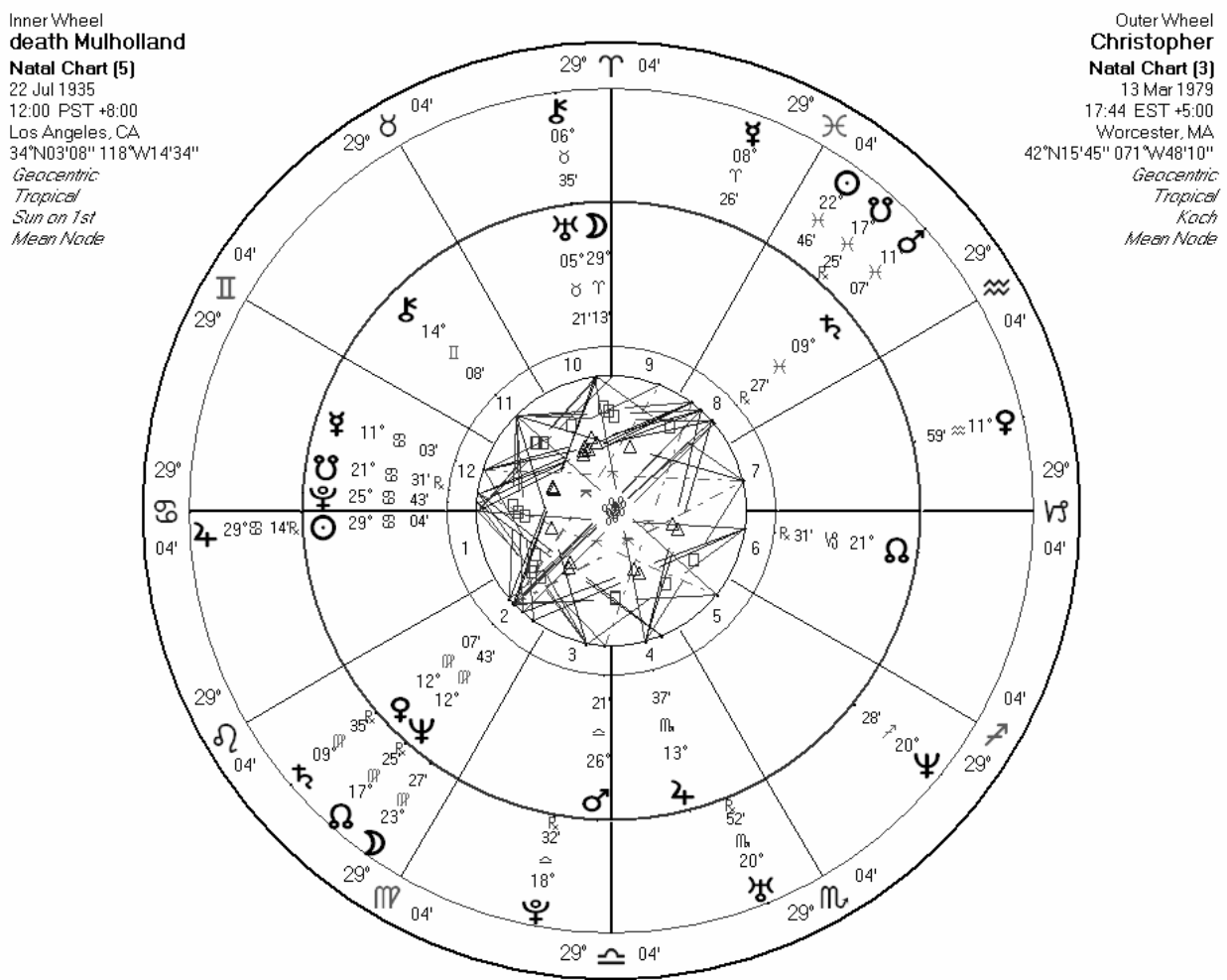


Figure 5 - Synastry between Mulholland's death (inner wheel) and Christopher (outer wheel)

Mulholland died with Saturn at 9 degrees Pisces opposing Neptune, exactly opposing Christopher's Saturn at 9 degrees Virgo in his natal 12th house. This repetition of degrees, sign and houses (Pisces associated with the 12th house), describe how the guilt and karma may have been carried from the event to Christopher's current incarnation.

Moreover, Mulholland died with Pluto and the Sun on his South Node, squaring Mars – a reminiscence of his own birth chart with Mars square Pluto on his North Node! Once again, describing the theme of power, destruction, and transformation. Synchronistically, Christopher's Pluto squares the Nodes of Mulholland's death quite closely.

Mulholland's death Sun at 29 degrees of Cancer, is exactly conjunct Christopher's Jupiter at 29 degrees Cancer in his natal 11th house. Jupiter in the 11th house can clearly describe expansion and development resulting from engineering or scientific knowledge.

Christopher in his own words:

“As a child, I was always fascinated by nature. I remember a vacation cottage my family stayed at one summer where we were right next to a cove that experienced drastic tidal variations. I was awed by the rise and drop in water level. I used to play in the bathtub at home with the water filling the tub and emptying the tub all the time. There was also one time in kindergarten when I remember drawing a picture of a massive flood that overtook homes and people. I remember the concerned look on my teacher's face and how I concluded that I probably shouldn't sketch those kinds of pictures.

My fascination with nature led me to study meteorology as an undergraduate student. It was a tough curriculum, similar to engineering but I stuck it out even though I had realized I had lost interest in a career as a meteorologist. But even with that lost interest I still to this day love weather phenomenon and the science of meteorology... just not interested in the career. Within months of finishing my degree, I packed it up and moved to CA with my brother where I started a graduate program in Atmospheric Science in the fall of 2001. Mostly I was using the graduate program as an excuse to move... in reality I was searching for my passion.

Around spring of 2002 I came across the opportunity to work part time as a park ranger about an hour to the west at Lake Berryessa. The opportunity came suddenly and I felt compelled to follow it even though it didn't make any sense to my career path at the time. Part of my duties included patrolling the dam and ensuring public safety. Throughout that summer there was something very familiar to me about associating with dams and I interpreted that as something I should look into as a possible direction for my career. I started becoming very interested in water resources management.

During that summer of 2002, I had run across a graduate program at UC Santa Barbara in Santa Barbara, CA that offered a masters program in Environmental Science with an emphasis on water resources management and I knew I had to apply! As part of my preparation, I decided to use my current graduate program to my advantage so I took a Water Resources Management class as an elective during the fall of 2002. Sometime around mid-late October 2002, our class covered a chapter in California water history regarding the history of Los Angeles water. From the first time the instructor mentioned the name William Mulholland I felt slightly off kilter yet keenly interested. Over the course

of that week I read the basic history and story of Mulholland and LA water and it floored me. I could sense the ending of the story before I finished it and one picture of him stunned me in particular. There was something eerily familiar about it but I couldn't put my finger on it. I kept getting this sensation that he was some relative of mine or somehow closely linked to me. For about a week or so, I had a hard time sleeping and I thought about the story and felt anxiety associated with it.

During the summer of 2003 I continued to work at the lake and to completely bury myself in finishing my thesis. I had zero days off between May and September of 2003....I was like an invincible machine!! And I completed my thesis on time and just before I headed to Santa Barbara.

I also was in a relationship the whole time. Throughout this relationship, I experienced heavy emotions and a difficult to describe feeling of guilt like I owed her something and like I was responsible for all of her emotional baggage. I felt I couldn't break up with her until I made things right. She caught on early that all she had to do was be upset with me and blame her feelings on something I either did or did not do and she could play on my guilt for sympathy. Not the healthiest relationship but one I felt I deserved.

*Several times during that relationship we had driven together back and forth from Santa Barbara to her parents house in Bakersfield, CA. This drive consisted of mostly travelling **between Ventura, CA and Santa Clarita, CA via Highway 126**. I thought nothing of this at the time... but in retrospect I see the significance... I consider this my 'guilt trip'... Around the spring of 2005, toward the end of my time in SB, I actually asked my girlfriend to come with me to the dam destruction site from the Mulholland disaster. I hadn't really thought about my possible connection to Mulholland for a while but I think the endless guilty feelings brought about by the relationship stirred something in me after a while. She agreed to go and check out the ruins with me. And wouldn't you know it, the drive to the site consisted of a drive along Highway 126 toward Santa Clarita. This path from Santa Clarita to Ventura I came to find out was the same path of the wall of water that rushed to the sea after the dam break just outside of Santa Clarita in 1928!*

His (Mulholland) life also has some parallels to mine, such as, really wanting to leave home as soon as possible. He moved to California with his brother around the age of 22 (February 1877) - I moved to California around the same age with my brother (September 1, 2001).

I am currently working in the Green Building field where I work with architects and engineers to create buildings that are more sustainable (i.e. use less resources and reduce environmental impact).

Conclusion

Coincidentally, this article is being written and published as Christopher is going through his first Saturn return (in the 12th house). Could this be more symbolic in light of the story regarding to his personal need to realign himself and assess the course of his action for a new cycle start? Purging old patterns and making new resolutions are surely on the agenda with Saturn cycles.

There is no scientific proof that confirms whether Christopher may indeed be the reincarnation of William Mulholland. We can only explore the potential and the fascinating astrological associations. From my personal point of view, it doesn't even matter; the important thing is that Christopher resonates with and addresses the evolutionary lessons described in his chart that shape the flow of his current existence. The story of Mulholland is for him an illustration of the themes that were described to him, and it can help him have a more specific context. Most people do not experience such a dramatic illustration of their past lives, but will still benefit greatly from identifying the themes brought from past lives described in their chart.

References:

- [1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Mulholland
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Francis_Dam



The Minor Earth Report

THE READER'S CORNER:



NAME: Jan Cone

LOCATION: I live in the foothills west of Boulder, Colorado.

INTO ASTROLOGY SINCE: It feels like I've been into astrology my whole life. When I was kid, on the corner where I took the bus home from piano lessons, there was a little vending machine containing tiny scrolls of sun sign monthly forecasts which cost 25 cents and which I always looked forward to reading. I began reading astrology books in the early 70's....Rudhyar, Marc Edmund Jones, and others, and have been studying astrology on and off ever since. I took classes with a local Boulder astrologer in the early 80's, read more books, especially Liz Greene's books, and most recently have been learning from Maurice, attending The Complete Course and telephone workshops.

SUN MOON ASCENDANT: Pisces Sun, Virgo Moon, Sagittarius Ascendant

MY PLANS FOR THIS MONTH: I have been and will continue to be quite busy weeding mullein and thistle from the land around my house that was disturbed by a remodel and addition project. It is a huge, somewhat back-breaking job but necessary so that the native grass and wildflower seeds to be planted soon will thrive and not get choked out by these invasive plants. Besides, it feels great to be outside after having felt like a hibernating bear all winter. I can't help but see gardening as a metaphor for life and as I weed I imagine that I am getting rid of the limiting beliefs and self-criticism that keep me from thriving and expressing more of my potential. To this end I am also working with a shamanic healer. The timing is very appropriate as I am experiencing my second Saturn return.... it is definitely time to work through the obstacles that keep me from moving forward.

ATTENDING AN ASTROLOGY EVENT THIS YEAR?: I am attending the UAC. I've never been to an astrology conference and though I tend to avoid crowds I couldn't pass up the opportunity to participate in a conference that has so many fine astrologers presenting and is taking place in my neck of the woods.