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“The Chiron/Moon Connection”

Cardinality

Let’s begin our examination of the Moon by first considering its cardinal nature. Each cardinal sign “acts like a bridge, connecting the prior developments (sign or quadrant) to their successor.”⁶ It can be argued that *every* sign is a bridge between its adjacent signs, and this idea bears weight. What is unique about cardinal bridging is its consistent locations around the zodiacal wheel: cardinal signs are those through which the larger quadrants and hemisphere begin, while the all-important Angles are directly associated with the cardinal sign energy they open to.

Qualitatively, cardinal energy is highly active. It sparks, ignites, and generates kinetic activity behind an unformed idea or dormant impulse. Each cardinal sign thus bridges between the mutable energy preceding it – the energy of integrating, understanding, and freeing – with the fixed sign following it – the energy of focusing, congealing and utilizing. From this, we see that any action (cardinal) which succeeds true understanding (mutable) will bring about the most focused result (fixed). It is the cardinal signs which are responsible for beginning new cycles of growth as ‘starting guns’ in *evolutionarily appropriate directions*. Interestingly, a well-known moniker for Chiron is the “rainbow bridge.”⁷

Cancer

As a sign-bridger cardinal Cancer developmentally connects Gemini with Leo. It strives to *birth*, initiate and cultivate greater conscious awareness and embodiment of our root self by connecting our cognitive strength (Gemini) – the ability to use our minds effectively and autonomously – with our emotive force (Leo) – our power to attract, create and live among our creations. Cancer can be seen to have one crab leg in the waters of the subconscious self (dreams, mother, our tribe or family, and echoes of our karmic past) and one foot on the ground of the new Self-Identity.⁸ And this is why Cancer psychologically signifies our egoic need for security, familiarity, origins and *emotional consistency*, as well as our drive to provide those very qualities for others.

Chiron/Moon

Bridging Cancer to the function of ego gives us our first glimpse of the Chiron/Moon connection. As the planetary energy most closely aligned with the sign energy of

Cancer, the Moon symbolizes the egoic function within us: the subconscious environment and its demands on our conscious selves to perpetuate a reality based in familiarity. Similar to Cancer, the function of our natal Moon energy is to bridge between the known and the hidden, the safe and the unsafe, between our experiences of 'me' from 'you'. In essence, our natal Moon, Cancer, 4th House, and Lowheaven (IC) reveal *our inner drive and somatic strategy to feel safe, to identify and root in ourselves in meaningful ways, and to feel connected to where we come from*. Each individual will express unique ways of doing this.

Where the Moon as ego is the inner drive to stay safe by perpetually recreating familiar thoughts and feelings from our moment to moment experience, Chiron is the preconscious origin of the ego itself. In forcing a wounding or breaking of our infant-stage homogenous consciousness, Chiron's evolutionary, short-term result will always be the appropriate formation of the Moon, our ego. Yet their link is not a direct one: the Moon's orbital path is not related in any direct way to that of Chiron. Their relationship is in fact oblique, seen only when we understand the core drives of each (rather than solely relying on their manifestations to know them).

At this point, let's re-introduce Rudhyar's intuitive hunch, namely that there would be discovered a planetary body – a conspicuous function of the body-mind – existing beyond Saturn and serving as a higher octave to our Moon.⁹ That body was found in 1977 and named Chiron. After much excellent work by several gifted astrologers, Chiron's astrological meaning was solidified and symbolized by the notion of 'a healer who is wounded,' one who has faced an internal weakness, overcome it in some meaningful way, and assists others to overcome theirs.¹⁰ In this we see Rudhyar's prediction made accurate.

The relationship of Chiron and the Moon is analogous to that between Venus and Neptune or Mars and Pluto. It is one of *octaves*. The notion of astrological octaves suggests two planets whose separate functions express the same general domain of consciousness at different frequencies. It says that the 'lower' octave planet and its functions are *harmonically* similar to the 'higher' planet and its functions. It does *not* say that the two are the same, that one tries to become the other, or that one is better or more evolved. A useful way to think of planetary octaves is as two turns on the spiral which are directly above and below one another. An octaval relationship suggests a *vertical, poetic, trans-rational relationship* rather than a linear, causative one, such as that between any two neighboring signs.

From this perspective of Chiron and the Moon, they seem to lead to each other: if the Moon's reflective nature points us to ourselves, our past, and our origins, serving as the primal drive of our Identity, Chiron is responsible for conceiving the ego in the first place, forcing us out of preconscious infancy into a cellularly personalized duality. Later in life he invokes us to transform that duality within us:

The seeds of our heart's wisdom are...

Planted in our first experience of separateness (Chiron);

Cultivated through the development of our subjective Identity (Moon); and later

Harvested as our cellular resolution of the two (Chiron + Moon=embodied wisdom).

When the Moon is over-dominant (relative to this duo), there is a strong resistance to opening one's heart in places of personal protection. When Chiron is over-dominant, there is an inability to substantively rely on oneself as one's emotional center-of-gravity keeps shifting in search of inner consistency.

In the Chiron/Moon relationship we have the all three acts in the drama of self: Chiron as wound catalyzes the seeds of ego within us, the Moon as ego carries us through life as an independent and separate self, and Chiron as medicine later replaces our egoic dependencies for a wider, more resilient and less fearful self-outlook. Counseling work with this pair produces an accelerated *emotional maturity* – greater power, honesty and depth – and a greater ability to 'not know,' quite a feat for the need-to-know addicted ego! With the widely popular yet erroneous opinion of ego as enemy in most watered-down, quasi-spiritual traditions, this experience can be profoundly liberating. After all, true emotional maturity is the personally relevant sublimation of egoic drives dominating.

Worth mentioning but beyond the scope of this article is the next interpretive step of placing our natal Chiron/Moon relationship in context of the lunar nodes. This produces an understanding of *how* the Chiron/Moon relationship – core issue(s) and basic structural needs of ego – is promulgating the larger evolutionary picture in an individual.¹¹

Sacred Medicine

Thus far, we've alluded several times to where Chiron (and thus the Moon) evolutionarily leads us, calling it at one point *sacred medicine*. For us, *medicine* refers to earned wisdom, or life-changing increases of consciousness by successfully contacting and integrating any fear, trauma or self-denial which directly correlates to the original wounding experience(s). *Medicine* produces an entirely new outlook on life, one which is shared by those who've come to face their sacred wound with similar conviction, surrender and open-heartedness. It is perhaps the main prerequisite for true teaching, because it is the main requirement for true learning. Our sacred medicine is that which we've brought into conscious awareness and helps us keep our heart open in all situations. As noted, growth through Chiron is a different experience than through Pluto.¹²

The appearance of the Chiron/Moon dynamic may also propose an evolution of the imbedded assumption that spiritual growth is always an 'upward' or 'outward'

(Masculine) movement. It says that as we seek towards our higher nature (evolutionary intent) our lower nature (base self, karmic past) will be left behind. The accompanying implication in these assumptions here is that both cannot or should not be pursued simultaneously.

Yet it is precisely the mysteries of Chiron which teach just the opposite: our earned wisdom is only acquired through courageously facing of our egoic weak spots (woundedness). *Sacred medicine* can be thought of as “the other face of the wound.” Medicine is only medicine if there has been an experience of brokenness (separateness). The medicinal quality is revealed *through* our deep access and healing of the wound. This type of healing is not a band-aid quick fix, or a “getting past” discomfort as quickly as possible. How we move into and through Chironic experiences are almost never transcendent-like. Rather, the healing and renewed clarity come in their own time and move in their own way. Our Chironic medicine arises through a *revealing* process, rather than a correcting one. When we’ve tipped the scales sufficiently away from insulation and remaining closed, the wound may magically, perhaps unexpectedly *reveal itself anew as medicine*, no longer as pain but as possibility. We find we are more resilient where we previously felt desperately weak and ineffectual. In evolutionary terms, this scheme might be described as *evolving our wound(edness) reveals our medicine*. And as many people have discovered, it can become one of our most meaningful contributions to others and to the world.

NOTES

1. The three astrologers were Maurice Wemyss, Dane Rudhyar and Charles A. Jayne respectively. This, yet “according to Paul Schlyter, “In April 1861, Hermann Goldschmidt announced the discovery of a ninth moon of Saturn...which he named Chiron. However, the discovery was never confirmed – no one ever saw this satellite “Chiron” again.” *Source: www.zanestein.com.*
2. Traditionally, nearly every planet has been correlated to another as its octave: Mercury with Uranus, Venus with Neptune, Mars with Pluto. The idea of planetary octaves is explored further in this article subsequently. These harmonic relationships are not the same as those suggested by planetary proximity to Earth, such as Venus with Mars, Mercury with Jupiter, etc. This latter practice more closely resembles *astrological polarity* or two ends of the same axis within consciousness.
3. This comes from the upcoming book, *Medicine-Making through Chiron: The Evolution of the Sacred Wound*, author, p. 23. Because this publication is EA-focused, it is perhaps useful to point out that this definition of the sacred wound is inherently distinct from the definition of Pluto at the level of the psyche. Where Chiron deals with a sense of woundedness or brokenness, Pluto refers to the experience of missing or lacking. In the Soulsign work, this is known as ‘self-lack.’
4. The physical birth of the body as an individual, separate self is the foreshadowing echo of this later psyche-level wound or split.
5. “Self-Identity” is a term I use to describe every mechanism the self has to know itself: ego, persona, psyche (body/mind), physical body, and also karmic patterns and tendencies. Self-Identity is contrasted with Self-Essence, or the timeless, holographic, omnidimensional and unchanging self, also known as Soul.
6. *The Soul’s Desire for Wholeness*, author, p. 145.
7. Barbara Hand Clow, *Chiron, Rainbow Bridge between the Inner & Outer Planets*, 1987.
8. *The Soul’s Desire for Wholeness*, author, p. 59.
9. This proposed “moon” was one of three Rudhyar describes, the first two being our Moon linking Venus and Mars and a hypothetical moon found between Mars and Jupiter and linking Jupiter and Mercury strongly related to the number 4 and 40 (the glyph for Jupiter).
10. In an upcoming booklet, I address Chiron as both the Wounded Healer and also as the Healer Who Wounds to reflect that Chiron’s domain is entirely our internal struggle for reunion.
11. What seems to work in this regard is to first compare the Chiron/Moon dynamics with the SouthNode (sign, house and prominent aspects). This tells *how and why* the current life wound/ego equation is the Soul’s chosen strategy to uproot

itself from its karmic past (Chiron uprooting Moon) and re-root itself in the fertile soil of heartened wisdom (Moon re-rooting through wizened Chiron). Chiron will often make a direct statement about how the individual is personally wired to do this. A look to the NorthNode for the intended lessons of self-understanding and –acceptance then completes the interpretation.

12. Plutonic growth consistently produces a greater “aligned empowerment”, where Chironic growth results in greater “open-heartedness.” These are generalizations certainly and do not preclude the possibility of cross-over in many individuals.