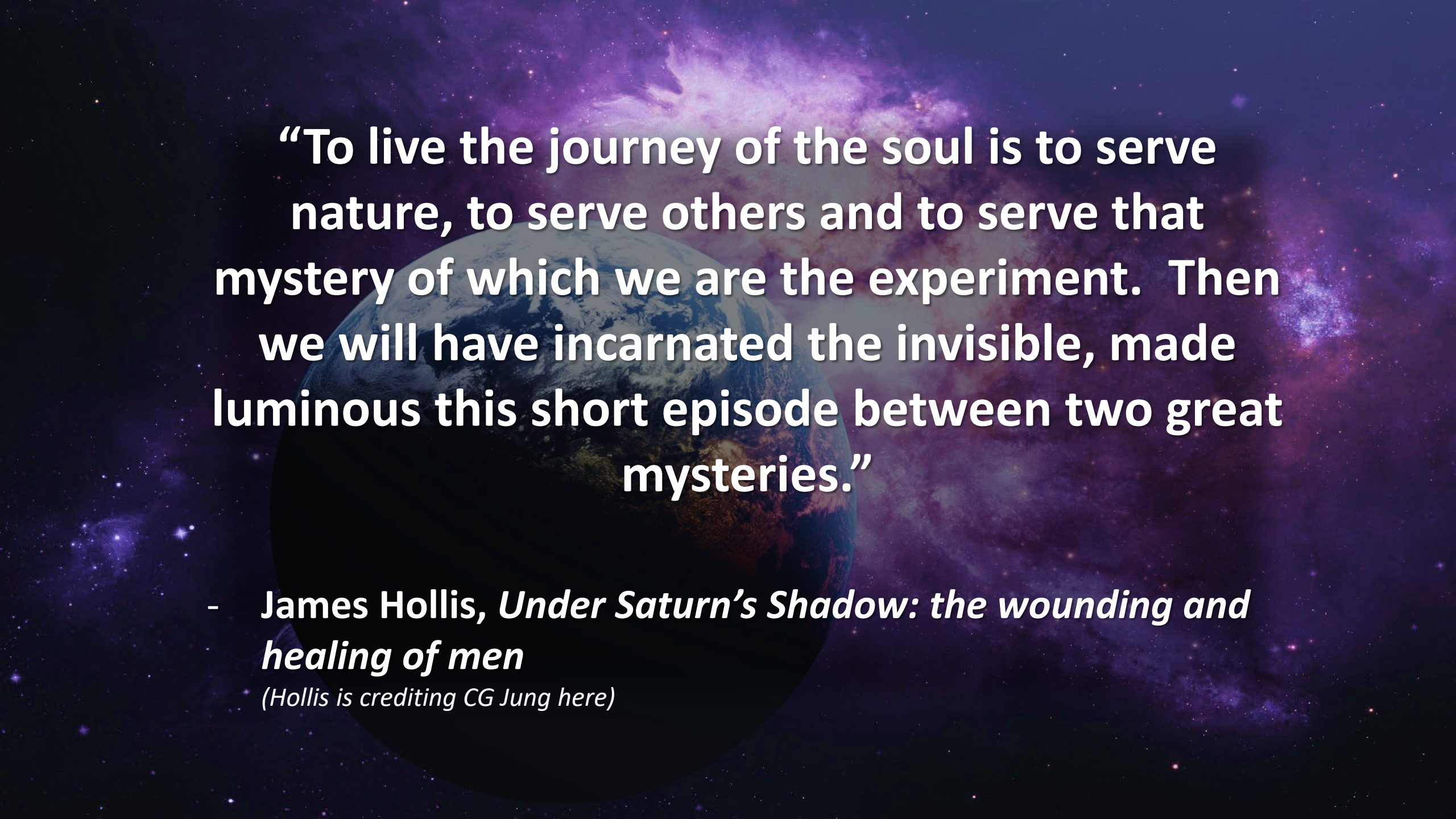


The Understory and Authenticity of the Masculine

An Astrological Perspective about Mars and the Masculine Principle

with Shamanic Astrologer Erik M Roth





“To live the journey of the soul is to serve nature, to serve others and to serve that mystery of which we are the experiment. Then we will have incarnated the invisible, made luminous this short episode between two great mysteries.”

- James Hollis, *Under Saturn's Shadow: the wounding and healing of men*

(Hollis is crediting CG Jung here)

Highlights of Webinar

- The Shamanic Astrology Perspective of the Masculine / Feminine (in brief)
- The 12 signs are archetypes – what are their natural expressions?
- The 8 Secrets Men Carry Within
- Toxic Masculinity
- The Need for Rebirthing the Masculine
- Synodic Cycle of Mars / Mars Returns
- Transgender / Non-Binary as it relates to the Natal Chart
- Asteroid Vesta's role

Mars and the Masculine

In shamanic astrology, Mars on the natal chart represents the “Masculine Principle”. For men, it is the “man” they are intended to be in this lifetime. For women, it is a symbol of their longing for the “other” as well as a large part of their “inner other”.

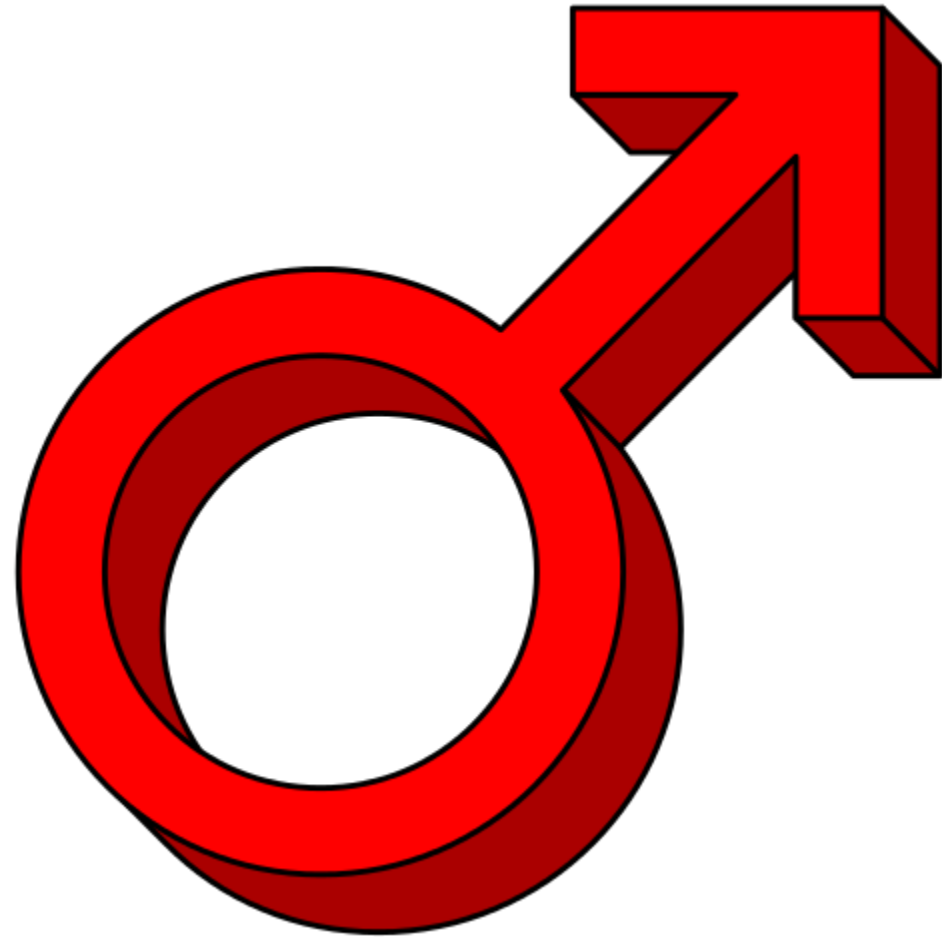
For transgender people, this can be defined on a case-by-case basis to varying degrees. Some may identify with it more strongly than others.

Mars is looked at as neither good nor bad. It is seen as a “progressive” part of a person’s Natal Chart.

Considered to be a “personal planet” on a person’s natal chart. Mars has basic qualities as an “active-force” in transit.



Initiator of the Masculine - Mars



- Symbolizing the Masculine Principle
- Action-Oriented Energy / Yan
- Represents the full-spectrum of authentic roles of the archetypal masculine
- Along with the Moon, carries the traumas of the violations/invalidations of the masculine
- Traditionally associated with Aries and Scorpio

The origin of Mars dates back long before it was repurposed as a “god of war”. That was a projection of the rising patriarchy in a grab for power and immortality. Names used prior to Ares and Mars: Enyalios, (Myceanaean), Nergal (Akkadian), Aplu (Hittites), Tammuz/Dumuzi (Sumarian/Babylonian). The farther back, the more it arrives at masculine’s service to Earth through agriculture and as defender of the feminine.

The 12 Mars signs are archetypes – what are their natural expressions?

Aries – Defender of the cosmic order / rugged individualist

Taurus – Pleasure seeker, to be the honey; Epicure-Artist

Gemini – Eternal youth / Peter Pan; Imagineer; Sacred Clown and Contrarian

Cancer – Nurturing, Compassionate Father and Provider

Leo – The Visionary Creator, Inspiring Leader

Virgo – Steward, Druid and Caretaker of the Temples of Earth

Libra – Partnership/relationship as a path of the Divine; Diplomat, Mediator

Scorpio – Shaman, edge-walker, sorcerer, life force channeler

Sagittarius – Explorer-Adventurer and Great Seeker of Meaning; Philosopher

Capricorn – Foundation-builder, Teacher and Resident expert/delegator/Manager

Aquarius – Wizard-Scientist, Egalitarian, Techno-Experimenter, Revolutionary thinker

Pisces – Healer-Empath; Infinite Dreamer; Helper extraordinaire, Mystic

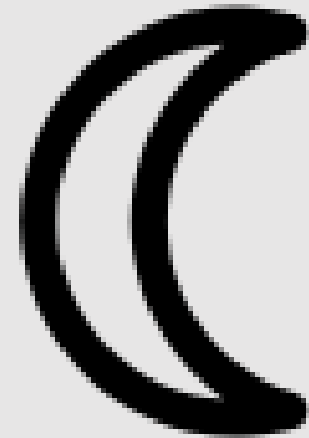
The Sun and Moon can alter the Mars archetypal expression

In shamanic astrology, the Sun represents the “fuel we burn” in our lives and the Moon as the archetype we mastered coming into the current lifetime.

The Sun and Moon’s archetype would change how a person’s masculine expression is in their life.

For example, a man with a Mars in Aries and the Sun in Pisces would be more inclined to be protector, helpful and sensitive to others than if he was born with both the Sun and Mars in Aries.

Another example is this same man had his Moon in the sign of Gemini, he would have a lighter and a more imaginatively active way of being in his Mars expression. If the Moon was in the sign of Virgo, it would be more serious, practical and analytical.

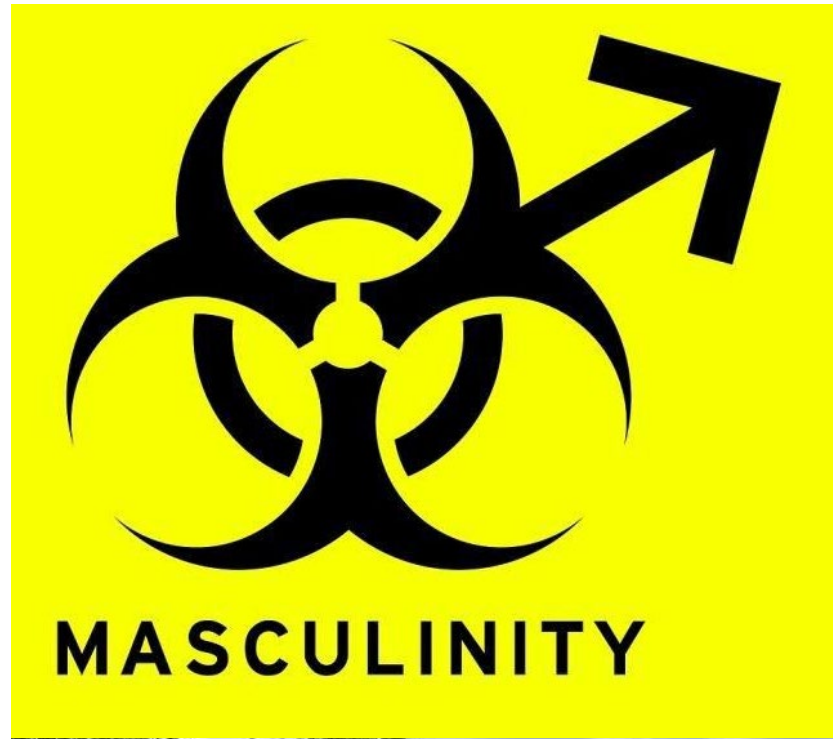


Extreme / Toxic Masculinity

Qualities of the shadow or toxicity of the dominant masculinity

These are qualities that all astrological signs/archetypes experience due to the conditioning of the masculine and men (in particular) go through in our youth. This is especially rampant in society now.

- Not allowing emotions perceived as “feminine” to show (i.e. crying, empathy, certain kinds of sensitivity)
- Not appearing “weak” in front of others
- All about winning and dominance over others
- Self-Centered, egocentric and reactive
- Never admitting defeat leading to the denial of any loss even if it means denying reality
- Being the “stronger” is “better”



<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-11/the-dangerous-rise-of-the-supersized-pickup-truck>

The 12 signs are archetypes – what are their toxic sides?

Aries – NEVER showing weakness, empathy or vulnerabilities / inability to invest in healing

Taurus – Saturation of “feeling good”, vanity, narcissism, overly superficial

Gemini – Not serious at all, never committing, cannot tell the truth and believes own lies

Cancer – Overbearing and controlling of family – others becoming solely dependent upon

Leo – God-Emperor complex, narcissism, megalomaniac

Virgo – Perfectionism of self and expectations of that in others; unable to relate

Libra – Unhealthy co-dependencies; indecisiveness; too much dialogue and no action

Scorpio – Toxic manipulations, control and power through fear, sex addicts

Sagittarius – The One Truth fundamentalism ; existence is futile

Capricorn – Safety and Security police state; Judge, jury and executioner

Aquarius – Denial of Shadow; denying the physical form; overly detached

Pisces – Lives in illusions, inability to handle reality; addiction to sacrificing self

Under Saturn's Shadow

THE WOUNDING
AND HEALING
OF MEN



JAMES HOLLIS

Author of The Middle Passage: From Misery to Meaning in Midlife

The 8 Secrets Men Carry Within

1. Men's lives are as much governed by restrictive role expectations as are the lives of women
2. Men's lives are essentially governed by fear
3. The power of the feminine is immense in the psychic economy of men
4. Men collude in a conspiracy of silence whose aim is to suppress their emotional truth
5. Because men must leave Mother, and transcend the mother complex, wounding is necessary
6. Men's lives are violent because their souls have been violated
7. Every man carries a deep longing for his father and for his tribal Fathers
8. If men are to heal, they must activate within what they did not receive from without

How do we Rebirth the Masculine?

- It starts with education and upbringing. **The masculine, as it is taught doesn't truly inform us who we really are, as men, women and other gender expressions.**
- **We need "rites of passage"**. They are potent ways to discover meaning in life from early on and especially in our teen and young adult years. There is a powerful, usually unconscious, craving for that. But it has been repressed, resulting in more chaotic expressions. **Living a symbolic life.**
- Fear and Violence and its propagation for thousands of years **needs to be faced** as the "elephant in the room".
- Empathy: Men in particular urgently need to understand that accountability and vulnerability is a spiritual strength.
- Acknowledging the wounds and **face our emotional/soul truth**



The Synodic Journey for the Masculine (in all people)

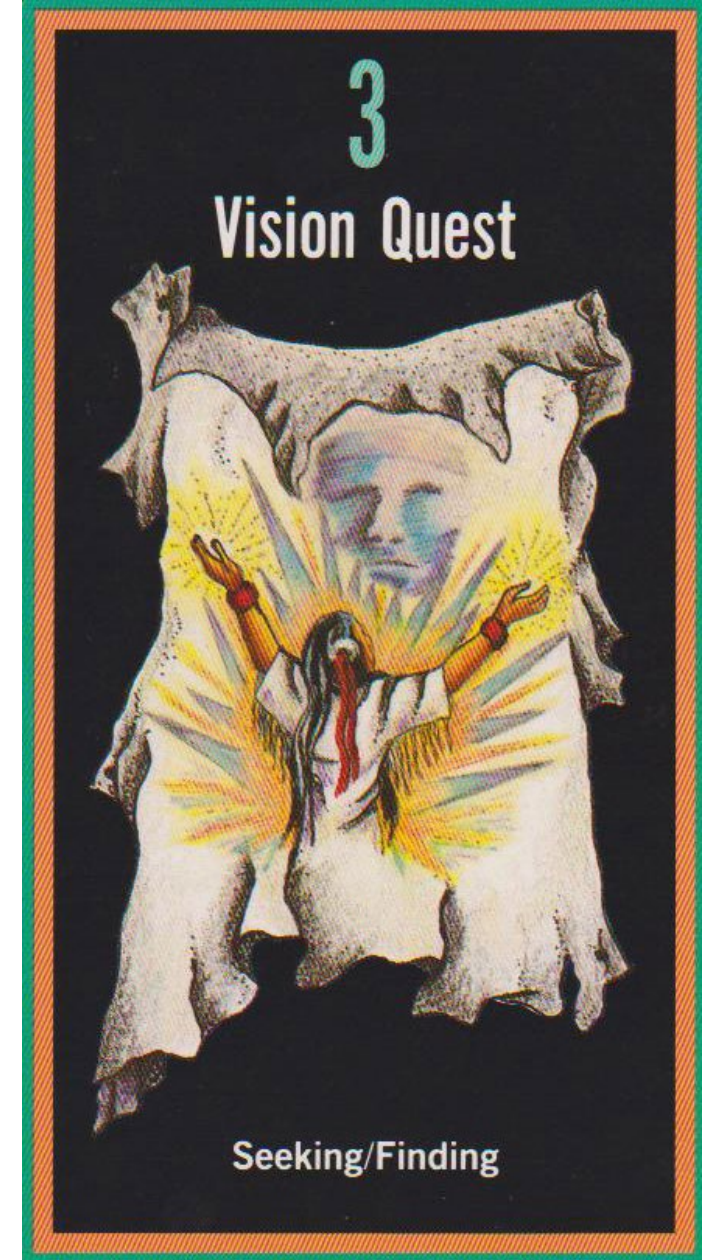
Mars has a highly unique orbit and relationship with the Earth and Sun in the sky. An irregular pattern shows up that helps us all understand the masculine within us.

On average, about every 26 months, Mars repeats its relationship with the Earth and Sun. This is called a synodic cycle. There are six distinct phases to this cycle and each one begins and ends at the Sun-Mars opposition. **The next such opposition takes place on December 7, 2022 in the sign of Gemini.** The last one on October 13, 2020 in the sign of Aries.

This 26-month cycle has two concurrent evolutions

- 1) The maturation of the masculine archetypes from incubation/birth to elder/transition/metamorphic
- 2) The Hero's Journey as outlined in Joseph Campbell's work

Credit goes to Daniel Giamario for developing the structure and concepts of a Mars Return and reframing the synodic cycle



From Jamie Sams' divination Sacred Path card deck

Mars Returns

All people experience what are known as Mars Returns every two years, when the planet “returns” to the same sign and degree as where it was. But it is only every 15 and 17 years that Mars returns back to the same sign and close to the same degree on a person’s Solar Return (birthday).

At ages 2, 15/17, 32, 47, 62/64 and 79 we all experience the power of a true Mars Return in our lives.

In a Mars Return, this is a deeper level incarnation of the Mars sign (that we were born with) and our relationship to the masculine. Along with Saturn, Mars does have relationship with the father and loosely, authority, primarily of the patriarchy.

Each Mars Return cycle provides initiations for people to develop a healthier relationship with the masculine (depending upon the sign of Mars). This includes periods of surrender, transformation, tasks, our polarity with the feminine and becoming whole.





Transgender and the Natal Chart

This is relatively new territory, astrologically, to understand in how transgender and other gender expressions show themselves in the natal chart. In the shamanic astrology system, all incarnations of the masculine, feminine and everything in between are supported. It is a holistic approach to astrology.

In my research and experience doing readings for transmen and non-binary people, there are some initial correlations that can be speculated about.

I've taken the approach that Mars and Venus express themselves in differing ways depending upon the soul's authentic expression. For example, a person born as a "woman" that transitions and identifies as a "man", will typically have greater identification with their Mars archetype than their Venus archetype. Vice versa for a person born a biological male and transitions into a female.

But sometimes, Venus and Mars can both be identified equally in non-binary people. However, more research and readings are needed to understand this relationship more clearly.

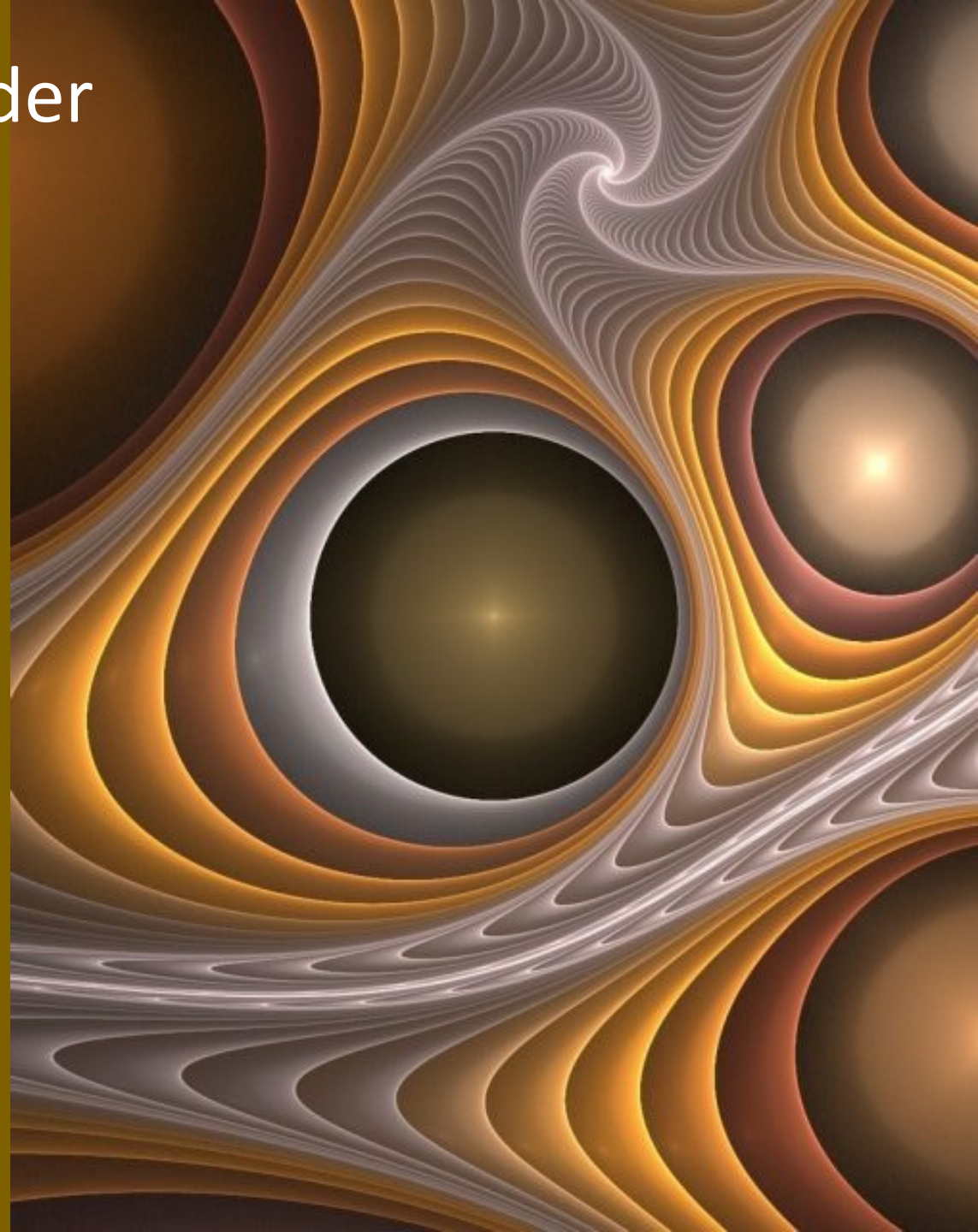
Other Observations with Transgender Natal Charts (a sampling)

Transmen

- Heavy Planetary Complexes
- Saturn, Pluto, Chiron, Uranus and Neptune generally strongly represented in the small dataset I have.
- Natal Venus is away from the natal Sun anywhere between 29 to 47 degrees of separation from the Sun.

Transwomen

- Heavy Planetary Complexes
- Neptune, Uranus, Pluto, Chiron and Saturn complexes present
- Natal Venus from the natal Sun is anywhere between 19 and 46 degrees of separation from the Sun
- Sagittarius, Scorpio and Capricorn

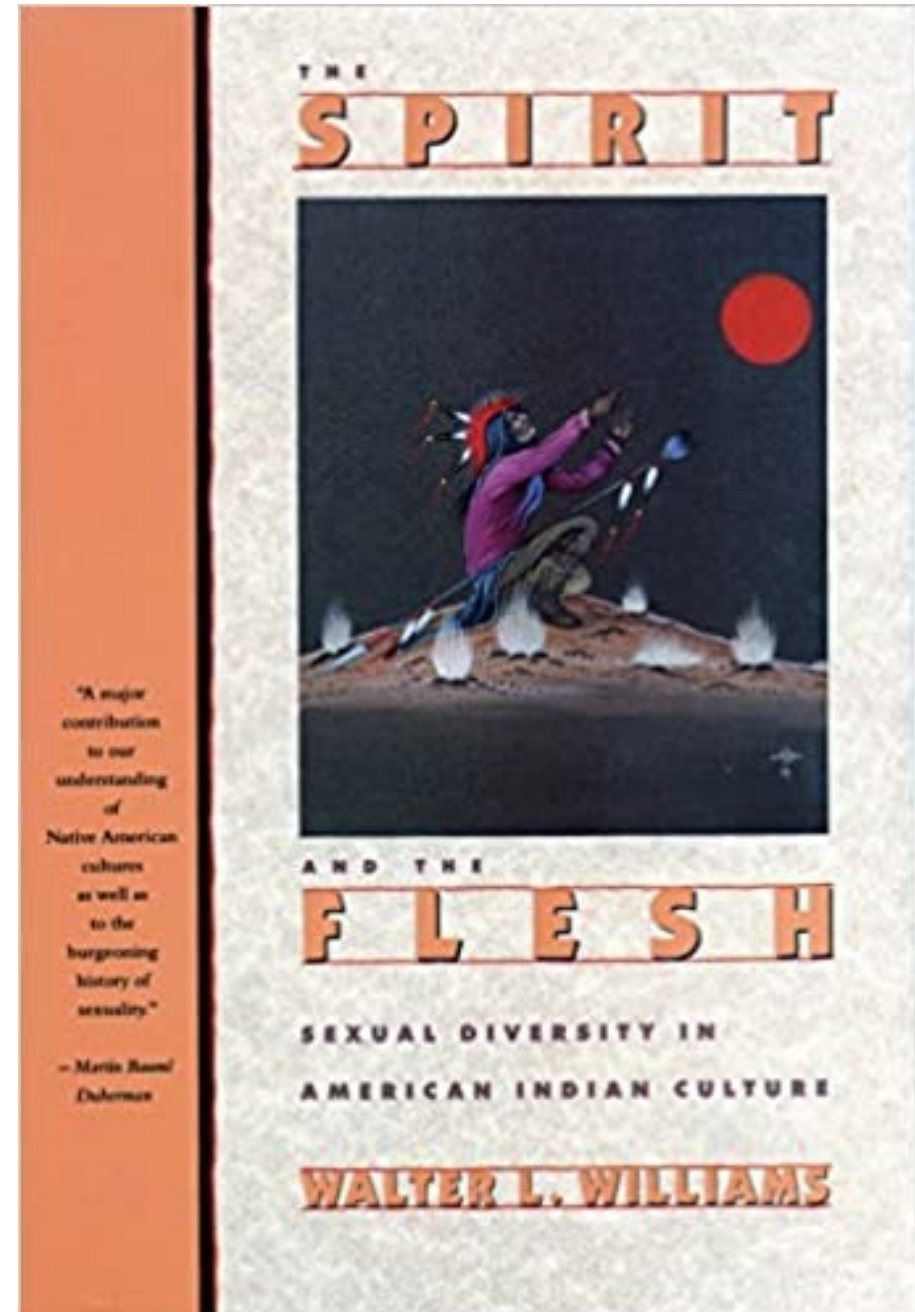


Transgender and Non-Binary Identities in Native American Culture

First published in 1988, and revised in 1992, this book is a landmark revelation in the LGBTQ sex/gender expressions for Native Americans.

Many tribal cultures in North America and beyond treated transgender and gay/lesbian orientation as something to be revered and honored in the community. Not all tribes thought this way, but the ones that did held them in way in which they possessed greater magic and closeness to spirit.

An example of this is a more general term called a “berdache”, is a man who does not fit the traditional role of men. They could have various gender expressions, including asexual, gay, and otherwise a nonconformist. Some of these tribes went well beyond duality, playing highly important roles in their communities.



The 3 Worlds Alchemy Beyond Duality

Shamanic Astrology is rooted in the concept / philosophy of the three worlds: Middle, Lower and Upper.

In my view, those who are “two spirit” or perhaps who are biologically / physically one way and yet their soul is another authentic expression (and many in-between) have a remarkably unique connection beyond the middle world into the upper and lower worlds.

This “uniqueness” allows a natural pathway to alchemize the male-female duality in ways that may not be otherwise explored.

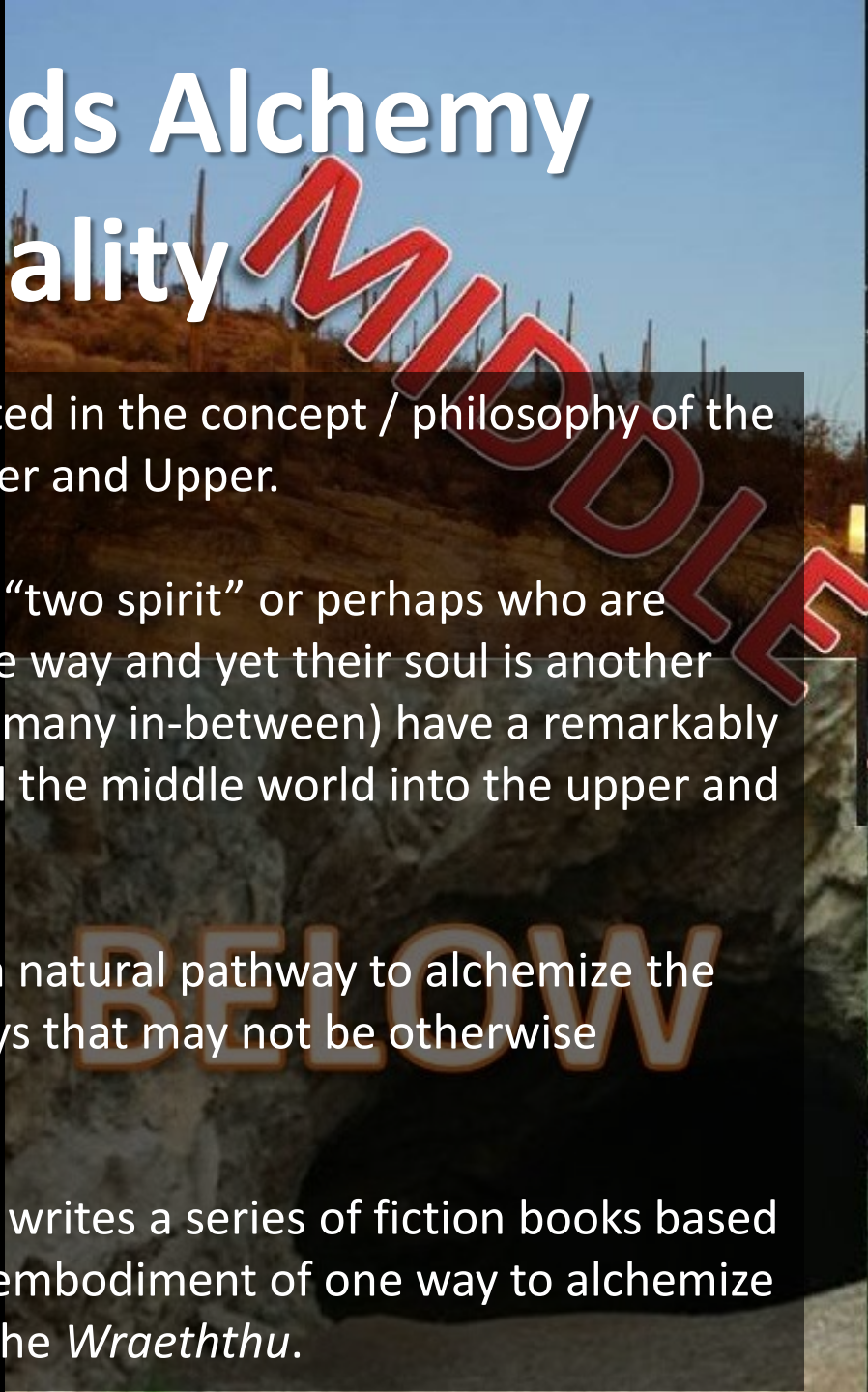
Author Storm Constantine writes a series of fiction books based on the physical / spiritual embodiment of one way to alchemize it as a new species called the *Wraeththu*.



UPPER



MIDDLE
WORLD



BELOW



Initiator of the Sacred - Vesta

- Creates opportunities to connect with the middle world/terrestrial initiators of Saturn and Jupiter
- Sacred Devotion to a Specific Archetypal Energy
- Awakens a natural vibration or heartbeat of the sacred qualities within the emerging Vesta Archetype

Return Cycles of Vesta

- Like all planets, Vesta as a synodic return cycle that we can experience several times in our life
- How long is a Vesta Return? It is proposed to be as long as it's Synodic Cycle: 16-17 ½ months (Sun-Vesta Opposition marks the start and end)
- A Vesta Return is when Vesta comes close to its original position (Natal Vesta Position) on a person's birthday
- The primary returns happen at ages 29, 58 & 87. Vesta Returns also happen at ages 11, 18, 40, 47, 51, 69 and 80 but not as close (secondary returns)
- A Vesta Return creates an opportunity for the sacred archetype to drop in at a deeper level. It is strongly tied to Saturn in the chart and can help open up the sense of the spiritual.

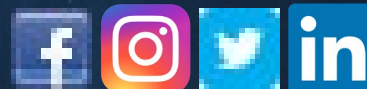
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