**"The Rebirth of the Divine Feminine:
Asteroids, Archetypes, and Mythology"**

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For 4000 years there were only 7 planets that were seen in the sky, and all but one, Venus, and the Moon, which is not a planet, were male sky gods.
In 1781, Uranus was discovered, with astonishing accuracy using a mathematical equation originally speculated in 1594 by Johannes Kepler and calculated
as Bode’s Law in 1771. Neptune was discovered in1846 using the same calculations, and verified once again in1930 with the discovery of Pluto.

The map of the heavens has expanded as the consciousness of humanity has expanded. Uranus, the “deal breaker” in its discovery, blew away 4000 years
of astronomical understanding. Up until it’s discovery, Saturn with it rings of limitation was the outer boundary of our consciousness. Most unexpectedly, Uranus showed up, not only with rings of its own, but also spinning on its side declaring its fundamental intention to de-condition what we know.

All of the planets within Saturn’s orbit represent conscious components of the human psyche, how we think, how we love, how we act, etc. The planets beyond Saturn are transpersonal, representing both the collective unconscious and individuated unconscious that lie below the surface of our awareness.

In 1801, Ceres was discovered orbiting between Jupiter and Mars, in the exact place that Kepler predicted. She was named after one of the sisters of Zeus. Shortly thereafter, Zeus’s other two sisters Juno and Vesta were discovered, and then Pallas Athene, the daughter of Zeus, born parthnogenetically from his forehead. Each of these new sky goddesses represents a previously
unexpressed astrological component of the Feminine archetype.

There are in fact over 400,00 known asteroids in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter. Around 15,000 of them have been named and mapped. I work with 4 goddesses, and Hygeia who was the daughter of Asclepius, the father of medicine, as well as Chiron, who is actually a Centaur or comet. It has been speculated that a planet actually once existed at this region where according to Bode’s law a planet should have been located, however it is out of scope of this discussion to explore the veracity of that idea or it’s implications.

Earliest known ancient spiritual traditions, prior to the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome, were centered on the sacredness of birth and procreation.
The primary higher beings were goddesses--fertility goddesses, because the propagation of life was considered to be the most sacred of events. With
the recognition that men played a role in the birth process, the practice of a matriarchal tradition was overtaken by male dominance and supremacy.

The Greeks and Roman pantheons were polytheistic, which allowed for both male and female deities. However, it was the Greeks who fractured the feminine
archetype into separate parts, leading to a gradual dilution of the entire totality of the feminine expression.
The feminine archetype was further denigrated during the Middle Ages by the Church, which needing to diminish the influence of the sensually exuberant
pagan infiltration migrating from the North, expounded a doctrine that required the separation of spirit and flesh, teaching that the natural and open expression
of sexuality was blasphemous and degenerate.
We know the Feminine archetype in its un-manifested entirety as the Yin principle-receptive, dark, moist, passive, cold, soft, yielding, etc. Venus was the manifest form in Roman mythology, Aphrodite to the Greeks. She is the expression of beauty, sexual attraction, magnetism, unconditional love--the pure undistorted essence of femininity. She is the Soul’s desire for relationship, starting with our relationship with ourselves in her inner expression as the ruler

of Taurus and the 2nd House, and that self-relationship which is then projected into all of our other relationships through Venus’s outer expression as the ruler of
Libra and the 7th House.

Demetra George in the Asteroid Goddesses describes the relationship between the Moon, Venus, and the 4 asteroids, as a mandala. Venus Aphrodite is the
feminine manifestation of the Moon, and the 4 asteroids, Ceres, Juno, Vesta, and Pallas Athene, each representing a component of the entire archetype.
As the expression of the Yin principle, the Moon occupies the entire circle of the mandala. Venus occupies the mandala’s center as the actual manifestation
of the feminine. Ceres represents motherhood, and the parental bond, and occupies the IC at the 4th house. Pallas Athene as the daughter, the realized
accomplishment, occupies the MC and the 10th house. Vesta, the sister, who is bound to no man, but has aspired to a sacred bond with herself, occupies the
Ascendant, and Juno, the faithful wife, resides on the Descendant.

It is important to note that these asteroids do not have rulership of these houses. Elementally they are asynchronous with each of those placements. Ceres,

Goddess of Agriculture, is related to Earth, Pallas, Warrior Goddess of Wisdom is an Air elemental, Juno is Water, and Vesta, Guardian of the Sacred Fire is a Fire
element.

Each of these asteroids has significations and keywords, just as the archetypes representing the planets and signs. In my work, I have found that the myth
itself is the message. Each covers a broad spectrum of expression, like the archetypes, and when the story is retold, the listener hears the message that is
intended for them.

I find that the myth of Ceres is one of the most telling in a chart. The myth originates in Greek mythology, so I will use the Greek names in the story.
Demeter (Ceres) and her daughter Persephone were the iconic mother daughter relationship. Demeter was the Goddess of Agriculture and together they
roamed the fields spreading the abundance of nature everywhere they went.

Unbeknownst to Demeter, her brother Zeus (Jupiter), who was the King of the Gods, gave her daughter Persephone, to their brother Hades (Pluto). Using his
helmet of invisibility, Hades came up from his Underworld kingdom, abducted Persephone, raped her, and took her back down to the unseen world. Demeter roamed the Earth ceaselessly, looking for her lost daughter. Finally her brother Helios (Apollo), came to her and told her what happened. She went to her brother Zeus to have him rescind his agreement with Hades, but Zeus refused,
so Demeter brought blight to the land, causing all of the crops and fields to die.

Faced with the reality that all of Nature had been caused to wither, Zeus had no choice but to relinquish his agreement and he sent Hermes (Mercury), the
only God who could enter the Underworld without harm, to retrieve Persephone.

All during her captivity, Persephone had refused to eat. When Hades told her that she would be released, he offered her a pomegranate seed, which she ate. Unbeknownst to her, the seed was a talisman of conjugal union binding Persephone to Hades for a portion of each year, which created the cycle of the
seasons.

The myth has many different meanings. It is about birth and death, loss and grief. It is about nurturing, and the parental bond, attachment and the loss resulting for over-attachment. In a natal chart it provides details about the nature of our relationship to our parents, and to our children as their parent—how we were nurtured…or not nurtured, and how we nurture. It can indicate the loss of a child, or the loss of someone or something that we become overly attached to. It can indicate sexual abuse from another family member. It can show our ability to nurture as gardener or animal lover. It can indicate eating disorders.

I would like to refer to a case study of someone who came to me for a consultation. I will call her Sandra. Sandra has her Pluto in Leo in the 8th House
conjunct Saturn. Pluto sextiles Neptune in Libra in the 10th House, and both Pluto and Neptune are inconjunct Ceres in Pisces in the 3rd forming a Yod with Ceres being the focal point of the Yod. Ceres is conjunct the Moon also in Pisces. Her 12th House South Node in Sagittarius is conjunct her Ascendant.

Jupiter its ruler is in Scorpio, also in the 12th. Jupiter squares the Sun in Pisces 3rd and Mars in Aquarius 2nd, trines Mercury in Pisces 3rd. The Pluto and Neptune combination, in the Yod with her Ceres brought her
into a birth family situation where she felt isolated and her emotional nature was repressed and denied. She was born feeling alone and abandoned from birth itself, and her adoptive family continued the lack of parental nurturing and emotional support. In her own words, Sandra describes her early childhood, “I was adopted at the age of two weeks. My father was an unemotional stern German man …we were like oil and water as I was sensitive and emotional.

Showing emotion was a big no-no in the family. My Mom…knew her role as mother…she was passive …and bowed to my Dad’s needs. She was unable to
bear children. My Dad arranged through an attorney to adopt two kids…I felt like an alien in the family”
Sandra has been working on the themes her sense of isolation, of having her power taken away, and the recurring traumas of betrayal and abandonment
(Pluto Leo 8th square Chiron Scorpio 11th). She has found the courage to explore her own truth in the world outside her family (Sagittarius SN conjunct
Ascendant} though it has been hard to overcome the pain and sensitivity she carries as karmic experience, and stand in her own power (Jupiter Scorpio
square Sun Pisces). She still feels a deep rage against those who betrayed and abused her. (Jupiter Scorpio square Mars Aquarius) Her evolutionary intentions
via her Pluto polarity point in Aquarius 2nd House are to develop her own inner resources and strength, to become her own father; to take responsibility for her
self in this lifetime. (Capricorn 2nd, Saturn Leo 8th)
We can clearly see how Ceres reflects the Soul’s unfinished business via Sandra’s birth family environment and how it adds depth to the detail to those
early years, which set the emotional backdrop of the entire lifetime.

Each of the other asteroids has an equally compelling mythology. Pallas Athene being born from the crown chakra brings us mental progeny. It is the archetype
of the civic-minded activist, patron of the arts, androgynous woman who stands in her power for all to see. Vesta brings us into sacred union with ourselves, and our commitment to the ideals that define us. Juno as the faithful wife exemplifies our commitment to relationship as well as the emotional roller coaster experience it sometimes brings.

The asteroids are important for a number of reasons. They add rich detail to a chart and expand on previously identified themes. Their archetypes can also

be active in a man’s chart as well. Men are fathers and have relationships to their parents and children; they can also have creative inspiration (Pallas),
be committed to a connection to their authentic self (Vesta), and desire to be faithfully committed partners (Juno)…or not. According to Jennifer Barker
Woolger, in The Goddess Within, the goddess asteroids in a man’s chart can also reveal the type of woman they to whom men will be attracted.

It is important to note, that not all asteroids are significant in every chart. Their significance depends on their prominence by angularity and aspect to other
prominent planets and lights, which are the underlying themes in a chart.

We do not come into this world with a Tabula Rasa as the rationalists would have us believe. Our “slate” is richly notated, foot marked and cross-referenced.
Carl Jung said “An archetype is like an old watercourse along which the water of life has flowed for centuries, digging a deep channel for itself. The longer it has flowed in this channel the more likely it is that sooner or later the water will return to its old bed.”
The archetypes live on within us, buried deep in the “underground” of our Uranian individuated unconscious. The circumstances and relationships that our Soul has aligned for us are designed to out those parts of us that we cannot see.

Mythology holds the template, the image of those archetypes. The wisdom has been preserved for centuries, hidden from those who would erase it, protected for those who would seek to find it.

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