

Chiron, Pholus, Nessus and the wild herd of other Centaurs



Hello everyone and thank you for being here. How many here look at Chiron in your charts?

I see that's just about everyone here. Most astrologers I talk to nowadays consider this Centaur an important tool in understanding the path a person must take as they work towards becoming whole.

But Chiron is actually a part of a much larger picture that involves a number of additional Centaurean bodies. And I am here to share this larger picture with you by discussing, as the title says, "Chiron, Pholus, Nessus and the wild herd of other Centaurs."

There are, truth be told, two types of Centaurs. In one group, each Centaur has many stories, stories full of meaning. And most of these have their own unique story of origin.

The second type are the ones I refer to as the wild herd. Each one in the herd has only the briefest of tales, and they all share a common origin.

It has been my experience that the first group of Centaurean bodies have, by their placement in charts, powerful lessons to teach us, and how we relate to other people. These I feel are the most important ones to look at.

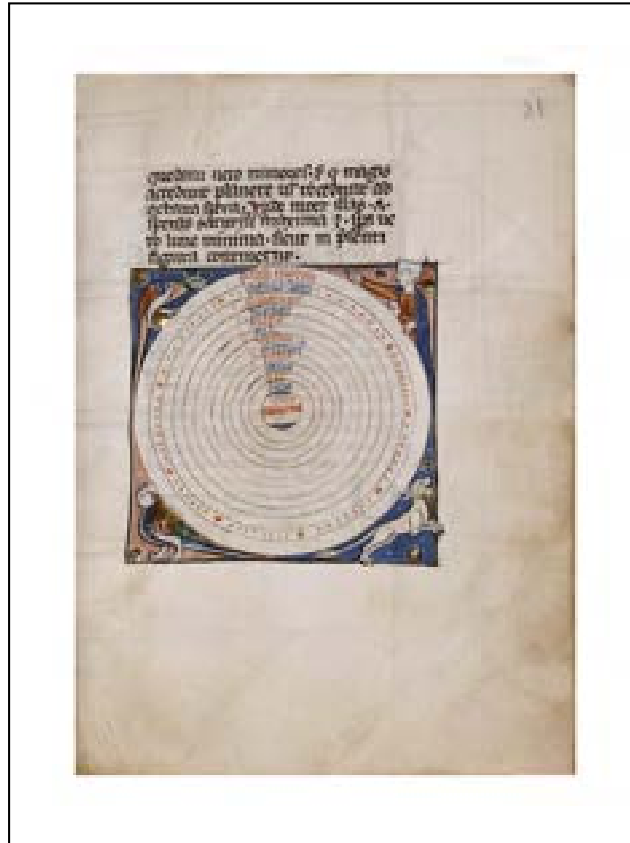
So the main part of this presentation will be about these bodies, but I promise, I won't ignore those who travel in the herd.

1	Phaethon	Phaethon 5145	10°48'00"
2	Nessus	Nessus 7066	17°40'00"
3	Asbolus	Asbolus 8405	01°09'14" ♀
4	Chariklo	Chariklo 15099	10°08'20"
5	Hylonome	Hylonome 15170	27°04'50"
6	Elatus	Elatus 71824	11°15'27"
7	Theron	Theron 12532	05°44'25" ♀
8	Pelion	Pelion 49034	20°08'22" ♀
9	Ceyxius	Ceyxius 52672	04°07'26"
10	Cyllene	Cyllene 52975	06°42'48" ♀
11	Bianor	Bianor 54584	17°08'33" ♀
12	Ampyx	Ampyx 55576	04°18'00"
13	Scheclus	Scheclus 60058	29°05'30" ♀
14	Coenrae	Coenrae 63882	07°06'04"
15	Orus	Orus 33083	04°04'24"
16	Rhyssalus	Rhyssalus 34688	10°46'13" ♀
17	Aphidas	Aphidas 121125	19°09'25" ♀
18	Holops	Holops 944	10°47'23"

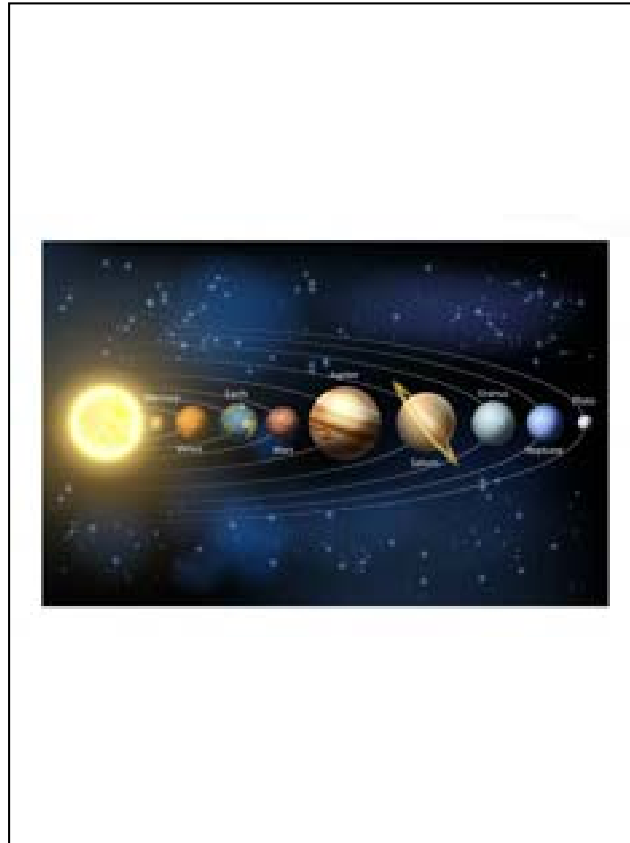
Here are the names of all the minor planets in addition to Chiron that are officially classified as Centaurs. If you are interested in a copy of this list, email me after the talk and I will send it to you.

When you begin working with these bodies, you soon begin to get a feel for just how important the half man half horse archetype is.

But before you can understand the nature of the Centaurs, what they have in common, and what makes each one unique, we need to step back a bit and look at a much larger picture. Perhaps we could say that this is their back story.



Over the past few hundred years our awareness of this, our solar system, has been changing dramatically. For thousands of years Saturn marked its outer limits. Beyond it were the far away stars, and the comets that came from ‘somewhere out there.’

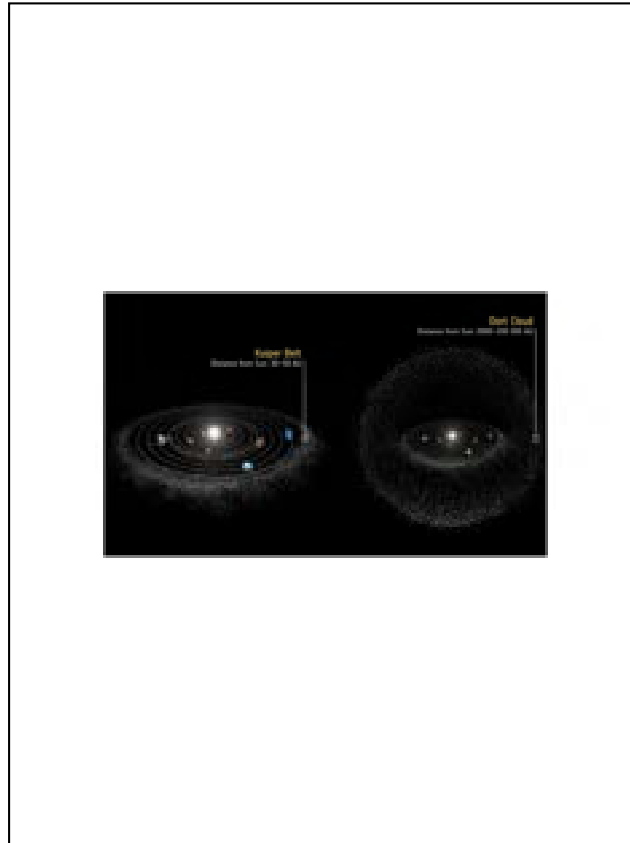


But in the 18th Century, the discovery of Uranus showed us our solar system was double the size we had thought it was - Uranus is about twice as far from the Sun as Saturn. Then we found Neptune and, wow, it is more than three times as far out as Saturn.

In 1930, finding Pluto did it again...just add that Sun-Saturn distance on to Neptune's location and you now had the new outer edge of the system. But Pluto didn't just show us our system was that much bigger, but something else as well.

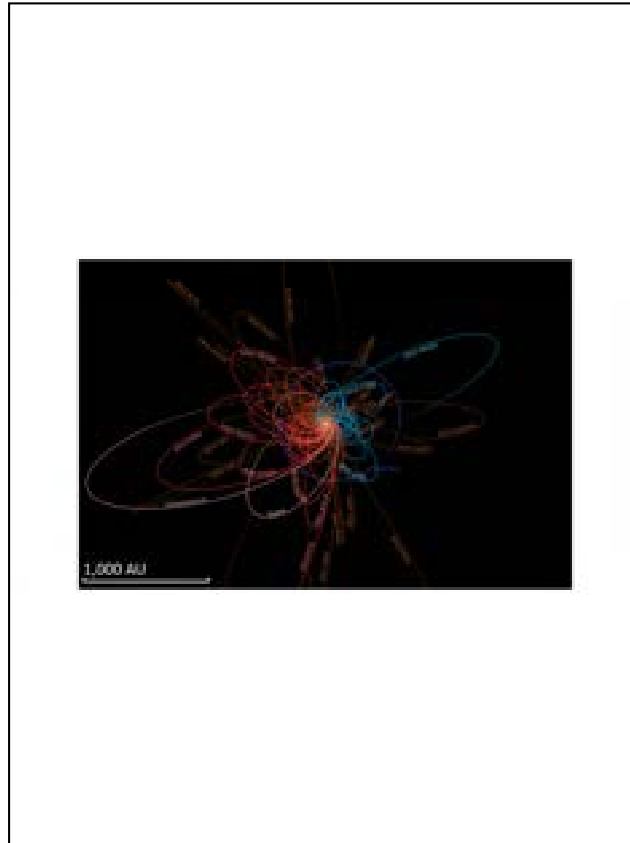
We also discovered that we knew less about the system inside its outer limits, because it seems that sometimes, Pluto is closer to us than Neptune. Here was a planet that was sometimes in the area we thought we already knew well. It seems that part of its job was to get us to take a second look at what we already thought we knew.

And although we didn't know it back then, this was a beginning. We were about to learn just how much the true nature of our solar system was different to what we had assumed.

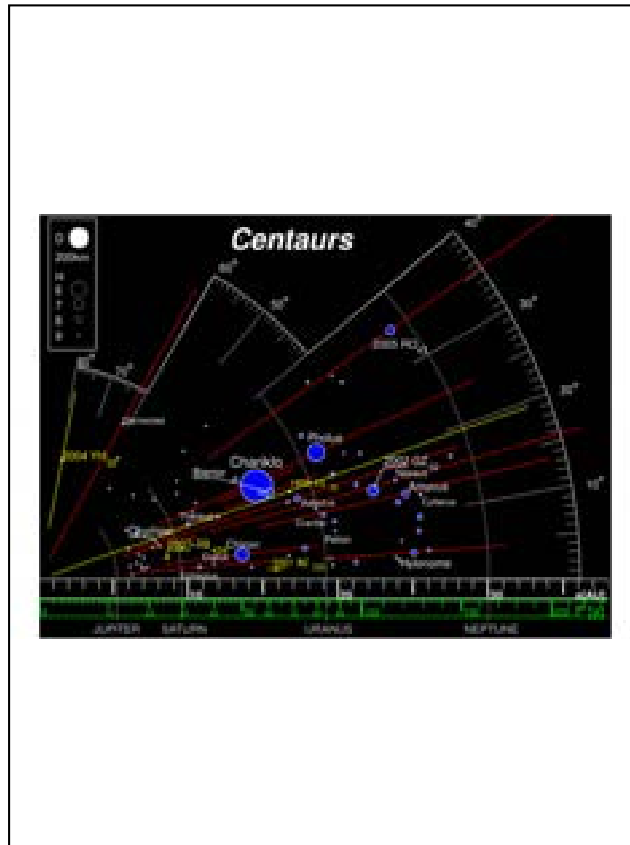


We would discover that our solar system was huge. It didn't stop at Neptune (or Pluto). Neptune averages about 30 AU from the Sun. But from there to almost twice that distance, 59 AU, is the Kuiper Belt (and this is where Pluto spends most of its orbit.) Beyond that is another area containing bodies nicknamed Scattered Disk Objects. And then beyond that we are surrounded by something called the Oort Cloud, which goes out to around 200 AU

We would discover that all of these areas were full of an amazingly diverse number of bodies, and there was a lot of activity going on.... bodies could move from one area to another, could head in towards the Sun, or take off into interstellar space.



For astrologers, the universe has changed drastically since our once provisional perspective of Saturn as last man out. And an awareness of this new perspective is absolutely necessary to understand the Centaurs, and how they work.



As much as this larger perspective has helped us to understand the Centaurs, it is perhaps even more important to understand just how much our understanding of this larger solar system was shaped by the discovery of some of the centaurs themselves. And it all started with Chiron.



Whoops, not that Chiron! (Although I do think Pierce looked really good as a Centaur, don't you?)

In a moment I want to take you back to the discovery of Chiron. But first, I wanted to share something about Chiron that was much more recent...in fact, only a month or so ago.

I started seeing news stories about the astronomical Chiron pop up in science journals all over the place.

James Webb Telescope Uncovers a Mind-Bending Hybrid of Asteroid and Comet Defying All Expectations

Story by Lydia Amador - 1hr - 4 min read

Asteroid-comet hybrid named "Chiron" is unlike anything ever seen before

By [Ella Walle](#)
Cartoonist staff writer

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A strange asteroid-comet could be key to understanding the birth of the solar system

By [Joshua Peckham](#) • Published Dec 20th, 2024 10:34AM EST

An 'oddball' asteroid-comet hybrid dates back 4.6 billion years

These JWST data helps support these celestial conditions.

By [Ella Walle](#) | [Ella Walle](#) | [Ella Walle](#)

You've probably heard about the James Webb Telescope, able to take pictures of far way galaxies. Well, it seems that one of the things it has been focusing on is the body called Chiron. And as if we didn't know it already, the telescope has confirmed that this body is unlike anything else in the known universe.

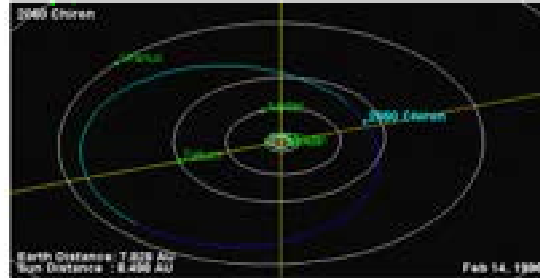
And studying the surface structure 'close up', as one writer said, "it holds the key to understanding the birth of our solar system!" Perhaps that shouldn't surprise us. Afterall, one of the major keywords associated with Chiron is "Key".

If Chiron is a key to understanding the origin of the Solar System, then perhaps it is also a key for each of us to understand the root of our personal complexes.

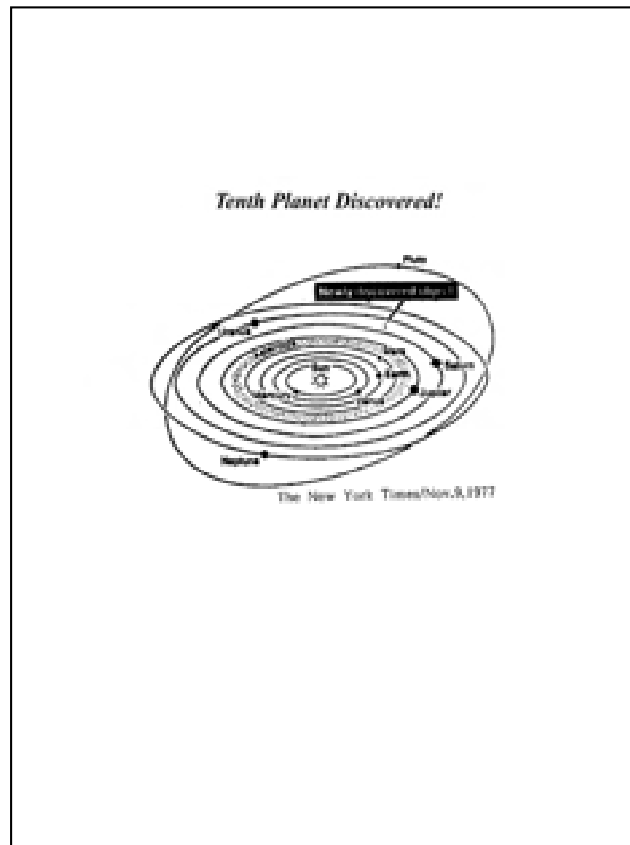
Something to think about.

Now, let's go back to the year 1977.

Chiron Orbit



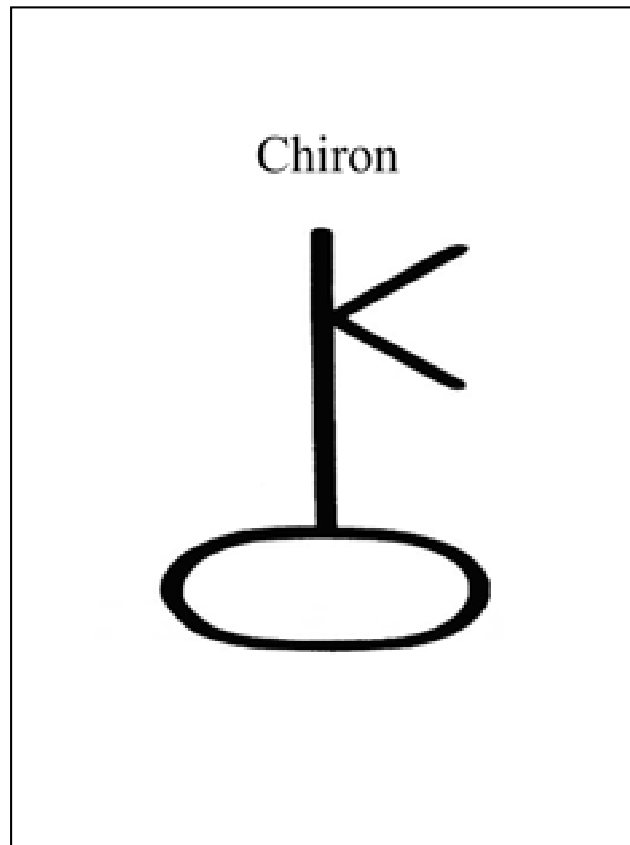
On November 1, 1977, an astronomer was routinely exploring photographic plates taken a few weeks earlier looking for possible comets or asteroids, using something called a Blink Microscope. Without getting too technical, stars appear as solid points on the plates, but everything else appears as streak, showing it moved. And he was stunned to find a very large streak. Something that was too large to be a comet or space rock was there, possibly even a planet. But how could that be...an undetected planet in the area between Saturn and Uranus? Surely astronomers would have seen a planet in the almost 200 years since Uranus' discovery! (Reporters got wind of the story and New York Times headlines read, "Tenth Planet Discovered!")



Still, just like not seeing Pluto when it was within Neptune's orbit, here was a body right in our own neighborhood that we had totally missed.

And like Pluto, this new body (named Chiron) was found to cross Saturn's orbit and be closer to us than that body. How could we not know about a 'planet' that was sometimes closer to us than the ringed planet?

A few years later, Chiron revealed something totally unexpected about himself. Astronomers discovered that it was a comet nucleus that was captured by the gravity of the larger planets and never turned into a comet. They had already given it a Minor Planet number, and now gave it a comet number as well. Very fitting, being a hybrid body, named after a half man/half horse.

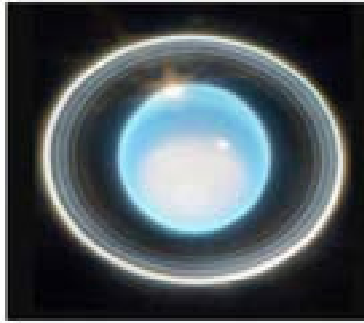


It turned out that this particular comet nucleus was amazing. It was the largest comet nucleus ever discovered. To give you an idea, it is about 20 times the size of Halley's Comet, a body can be seen with the naked eye when its closeness to the Sun causes it to show a tail.

And as size increases, so does mass. It turns out that Chiron is so massive that it has a huge gravitational force. When it starts moving towards the Sun, some of its outer layer of frozen gases thaw and are released, but the gravitational pull is so strong that most of them stay hanging around Chiron like an atmosphere. Then as Chiron begins to move back outward into the cold they cool, dropping down and refreezing, with only the tiniest bit of vapors drifting away in the process.

In other words, each circle around the Sun, the frozen gases release some shall we say impurities, and so it is more 'pure' than it was before.

All of these things contribute to the meanings of Chiron. But before we go into that, there are two more things of note that happened within months of Chiron's discovery.



About eight months before Chiron was discovered, the most astonishing thing came to light about the planet Uranus.

Uranus had rings!

Saturn no longer had a monopoly as the only ringed body.

And this was especially weird for astrologers:

Saturn and Uranus actually had something in common!

Perhaps knowing this helps to explain why the two bodies, so seemingly different, join together to co-rule the sign Aquarius.

And then, when Chiron was discovered...where was it found? Between these two ringed planets.

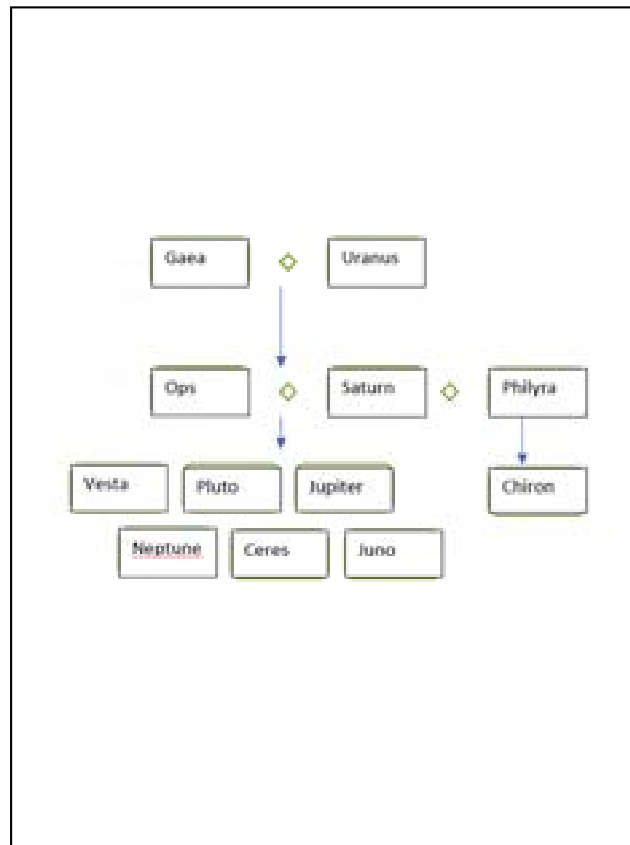


And about eight months after the astronomer took those photo plates that led to Chiron's discovery, something amazing was discovered about Pluto. Pluto had a Moon, large enough to make it a binary planet.

This, it turns out, made Pluto much smaller, less massive, than had otherwise been thought. If astronomers had known how small it really was, they might not have seen it as a planet when they discovered it.

Pluto, it seems, was not quite what we thought it was.

And Chiron had something in common with it....they both crossed the orbits of a major planet. (Pluto crosses Neptune's orbit, Chiron crosses Saturn's orbit.)



Chiron’s astrological meaning ties in to his astronomical nature. But his mythology also shines through as well..

You may have heard him called the Wounded Healer. He was wounded twice.

In ancient times, when Saturn ruled the universe (and had not been overthrown by Jupiter yet), the god fancied a nymph named Philyra and wanted mate with her. She was terrified and changed herself into a horse to gallop away, but he transformed into a stallion, overtook her and raped her. When he was finishing up he heard his wife approaching and, so not to be caught by a jealous spouse, he galloped way, and never once looked back at the nymph. The nymph became pregnant and, in due time gave birth. When she saw the strange creature, a Centaur, she was horrified. “Get this monstrosity out of my sight! I never want to see it again” she yelled.

This...abandoned by his father, rejected by his mother, was his first wounding.



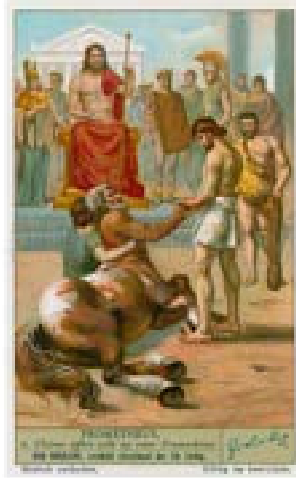
He grew up fostered by the gods Apollo and Diana who taught him about medicine and how to be at one with nature. He became a healer and teacher – all the great heroes were taught in the classroom in his cave, including the child who grew up to be the god of medicine and healing. I could spend hours telling you Chiron tales.

But we are talking about his wounding, and here is the second wound.

There was another centaur, kind and gentle, a friend to Chiron, who lived in a cave on another part of Mount Pelion. His name was Pholus. He was entrusted by Dionysus to be the keeper of a large keg of wine, to protect it. One day his friend Hercules, coming home from one of his labors, stopped by to visit Pholus and asked for some wine. Pholus at first said no, but Hercules was persuasive and so the centaur ripped the lid off the keg and gave him a mug. The smell of the wine drifted across the mountain, reaching the herd of wild centaurs, and as one they rushed mindlessly towards the smell. I want you to picture this. A typical centaur was huge...imagine a large horse, like a Clydesdale, but with a human head...then imagine a whole mob of them rushing mindlessly as one, destroying everything in their path. Hercules reacted like any warrior would...pulled out his bow and tried to stop the mob by shooting them with poison-tipped arrows. Chiron was nearby and tried to intervene, unsuccessfully, and centaurs were being killed. One fell almost at Pholus' feet, and the good centaur, not understanding how such a little arrow could kill a huge beast, pulled it out and pricked his finger, killing him instantly. Another arrow, meant for the herd, passed through Chiron's leg. Because he was immortal it did not kill him. But because the poison was incurable, he was destined to be in intense pain yet unable to heal himself.

This was his second wounding.

(This was the second time wine and Centaurs did not mix well. I'll tell you about the first time a little later.)



One of the old gods, one of Saturn's brothers who joined with Jupiter to overthrow the reign of the old ones, was named Prometheus. Prometheus loved the humans who occupied earth and did everything he could to help them. One day he stole fire from the heavens and gifted mankind with it, and Jupiter was enraged. "Now that they have fire they can create, they will be like little gods and not need us" he yelled. He commanded Prometheus be punished...chained to a rock, every night a giant bird would painfully rip out his liver and, because he was immortal, it would grow back the next day. Prometheus called out to his friend Hercules to help. Hercules approached Chiron with his idea, and when he agreed, the demigod made a proposal to Jupiter: I know you gave your royal command that Prometheus be punished, and you can not go back on your word. But perhaps an exchange or ransom...poor suffering Chiron would willingly give up his life to free himself from the pain in exchange for releasing Prometheus from his. Jupiter agreed, Prometheus was release, an Chiron ended his existence on earth and was transformed into the constellation Sagittarius.

Let's look at a few of Chiron's meanings, and how they are drawn from the myths, an the astronomy.



When I first began studying Chiron I felt it was a good fit as co-ruler of Libra, while other astrologers linked it to Virgo, Scorpio, or Sagittarius. But discovering its cometary nature it became increasingly clear that it didn't rule one sign, but rather a process. Think of its orbit taking it in towards the sun, it's surface melting, losing some of its impurities, then travelling back out, refreezing, with a crystalline surface more pure than before. Chiron's process starts with Virgo, where you discover something is wrong. Perhaps you finally become consciously aware of symptoms of some illness or condition and realize you must do something. You need to step outside of your box (Chiron crosses Saturn's orbit) to seek help, perhaps talking to a doctor, a counselor, a guru, or maybe turning deep inward (entering a cave within) and getting in touch with a higher self. This is the Libra part of the process. The doctor or guide gives the steps you need to take to begin the healing process, the major changes you need to make, and you have a choice of following the prescription and becoming more whole, or disregarding it and getting worse, perhaps even leading to your demise. Yes, this is the Scorpio phase. If you choose to make the changes, you are not only now more whole, but you see things from a much larger perspective now, realize how much more you are capable of becoming, and have an understanding you are able to share with others perhaps through teaching or counseling. This is the Sagittarius phase. But in each of us, our woundedness is part of a very complex pattern we built up over time, and healing cannot take place all at once. So just as Chiron circles the Sun again and again, astrologically it brings our focus on a part of our wound, and we work on that, then another part...the process of healing is the process of becoming whole, and we spend our lifetime hopefully growing, healing, becoming more whole. Except perhaps in the case of a Buddha, or a Christ, we never reach a point where we say, OK, I'm now completely whole.



And about the wounds. Part of the healing is in realizing that in no way whatever were we responsible for them. They happened to us, the circumstances were beyond our control. And becoming aware of the flawed, only human nature of those who wounded us, realizing that they impacted us as a result of dealing with major issues of their own, and being able to forgive them for what they had done. To put it simply, to open a part of your heart you had closed off and let them in. (To some extent you can tell the nature of the problems they were trying to deal with, at least as they appeared to you as a child, by the sign your Chiron is in.)

And becoming aware that we have become who we are at least in part due to dealing with our wounds, and that we can never undo the wound, only find ways to change how we deal with what happened to us.

I often think of a tree I once saw in the forest, part way up it was bent at an angle, then continued to grow upwards. It was a magnificent tree, a beauty to behold. It would not have grown the same way had it not been wounded, but responded to the wound as it grew and unique among the other trees, and this was part of the beauty it had become.

The first part of Chiron's name, Chir, comes from a Greek word meaning hands, or using hands. You've seen it in other words, such as chiropractor who uses hands to make adjustments in your body to help you heal. Chiron's healing is not detached, but is a hands-on work.



As you may remember, I mentioned that on its way towards the Sun Chiron crosses Saturn's orbit and moves closer to us than the ringed planet.

If Chiron is a significant astrological body, then you might assume that the first time this happened after its discovery might be significant. And you would be right.

Chiron crossed Saturn's orbit on January 22, 1992 (reaching perihelion Feb 14, 1996.)

What happened?

One of the biggest news stories in the astronomy circles occurred that year. Astronomers discovered a body out past Pluto. This Transneptunian body (which has since been named 15760 Albion) led to the astronomers proving the existence of the Kuiper belt...that is, proving our system was much larger than we thought.

Another major discovery happened that year: astronomers confirmed the first detection of an exoplanet...that is a planet around another star. Our first proof that there were other planetary systems beyond ours.

But the one that intrigued me the most occurred just as Chiron was crossing over into Saturn's realm.

SON OF CHIRON

Now Appearing In Space

Science News

Feb 8, 1992

Michael Stroh

It may sound like one of Godzilla's adversaries, but Son of Chiron is actually the nickname of a puzzling new object that astronomer David L. Rabinowitz discovered in the orbital range of Saturn. "We're stumped by it," says Tom Gehrels, director of the University of Arizona Spacewatch team in Tucson. "No one that I know of really understands what it is."

This was when another body was discovered in the area between Saturn and Uranus that appeared so much like Chiron, that Science News headlined the announcement, "Son of Chiron Now Appearing in Space."

It wasn't long before they discovered that there were both major similarities, and major differences, between the two bodies.

And when its orbit was confirmed, its discoverer chose a name for it that I just talked about a little bit ago. He name it Pholus.

Pholus, like Chiron, had a unique parentage: His mother was an ash-tree nymph named Melia, and his father was Silenus, the son of Pan and reputed tutor to the god of wine, Dionysus.

(Silenus was almost always pictured being drunk, by the way.)

So considering his origin, it isn't surprising that he was entrusted as keeper of the wine.

Wine, like all alcoholic drinks, is ruled by Neptune. And Pholus has a connection with that planet.

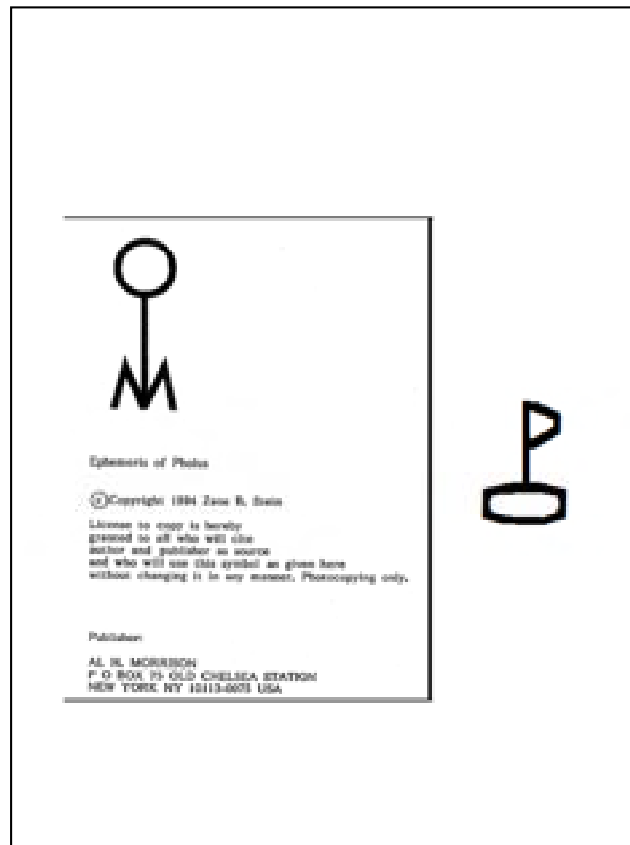
Pholus Orbit



This new body was at perihelion (closest to the Sun) when within Saturn's orbit, like Chiron, and so it was another orbit crosser. But Chiron crossed Saturn's orbit and went almost to Uranus, while this new body kept going, crossing Uranus' orbit as well and almost reaching— that's right --- Neptune.

And perhaps one of the most striking features of this new discovery was its color...it was extremely red, competing with the red planet Mars. When I read that my first thought was, "red, like red wine."

Now two bodies crossing orbits of major planets were named after centaurs, and a new classification of Minor Planets was created.

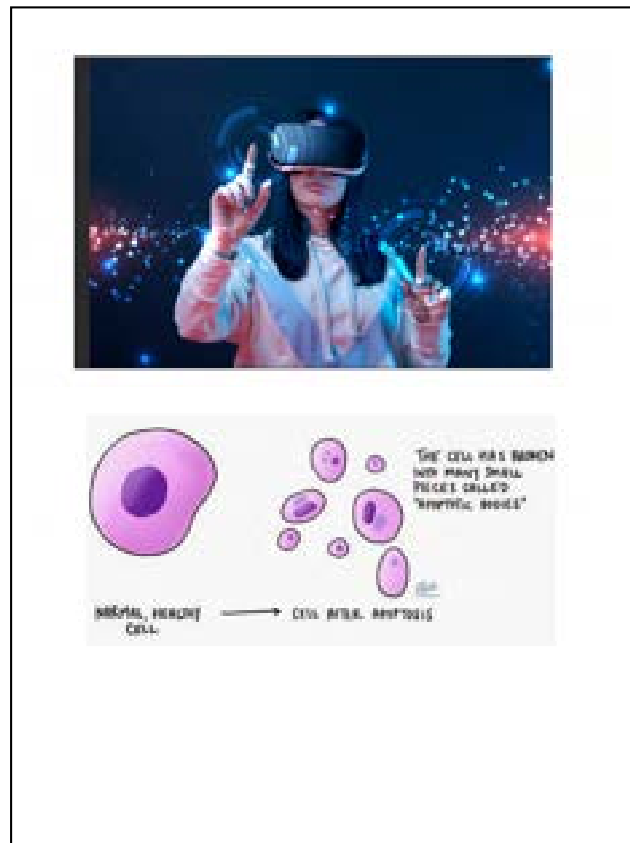


I was blessed to get a hold ephemeris tables for this new body, and worked with astrologer Al Morrison to publish this in 1994 and send it out to several dozen astrologers to explore in charts. What we know about its meaning is due to the pooled efforts of myself and several of these other researchers.

It was not surprising that there was Saturn/Neptunian overtones to the meanings that began to be discovered. Early on, it was found that there was an element of selflessness in his actions...of involving the self in something to the point of losing the self in the process.

Ever since the discovery of the planet Uranus, astrologers have looked for clues to the new body's meaning from major events around the time of discovery.

The term 'Virtual Reality' predates Pholus. It was coined in the 1930's by a surrealist author Antonin Artaud, but he was not using it in computer situations. The term was picked by the computer world in the late 1980's, but exploded into general humanity's consciousness with a slew of pop books and movies around the time of Pholus' discovery. "Lawnmower Man", for example, was first released on March 6, 1992, a month after Pholus was found, which is about blurring the line between reality and virtual reality until reality itself is endangered. This media blitz was part of the reason for the research into Virtual Reality boom of the 90's; another part was the book, written in 1991, but taking off the following year, entitled "Virtual Reality: Exploring the Brave New Technologies of Artificial Experience and Interactive Worlds from Cyberspace to Teledildonics." (The author, Howard Rheingold, had an exact Mercury/Pholus opposition.)



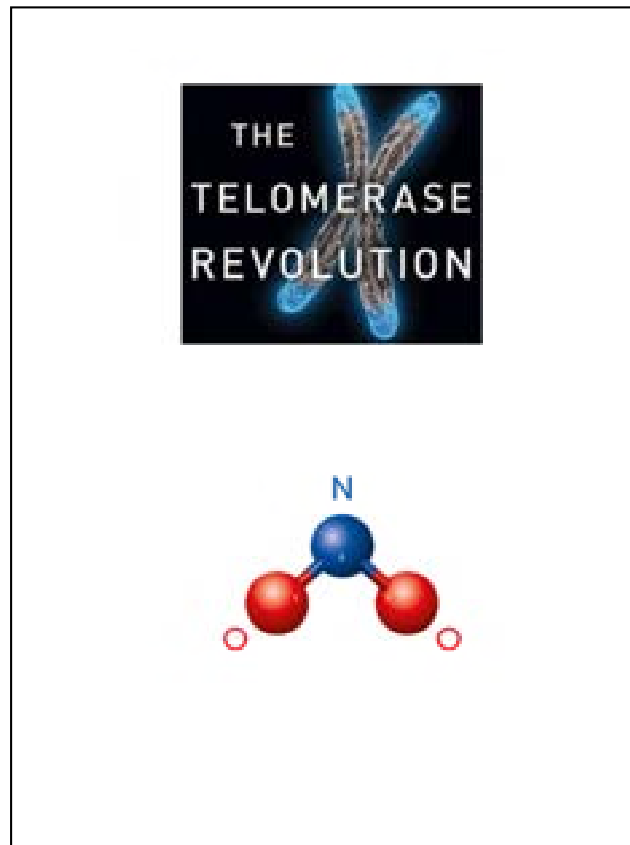
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The first popular web browser was released which set the state for other web browsers and the explosion of interest in the internet; a secure network protocol was released which enabled computers to securely communicate with each other over the internet; IBM released the first touchscreen mobile phone with email capabilities (considered the first smart phone); and the first text message ever was sent (“Merry Christmas, sent from a computer to a mobile phone.

Apoptosis is a term you may not have heard of, unless you work in the medical or biological fields. It is, simply, a form of programmed cell death, and is referred to prolifically in scientific literature nowadays. However, cell biology textbooks with copyrights PRIOR TO 1992 DO NOT CONTAIN THE TERM in their indexes, and BEFORE 1992, the National Institutes of Health DID NOT LIST apoptosis as an area of research interest. Yet, suddenly, in 1992....the year of Pholus' discovery...this term began to pop up in textbooks, as well as in research projects. In 1993 grant funding for projects whose title mentioned the word nearly doubled over the 1992 figure, and in 1994 grant funding doubled again.

Cell death. Pholus' main myth is about the circumstances surrounding his own death.

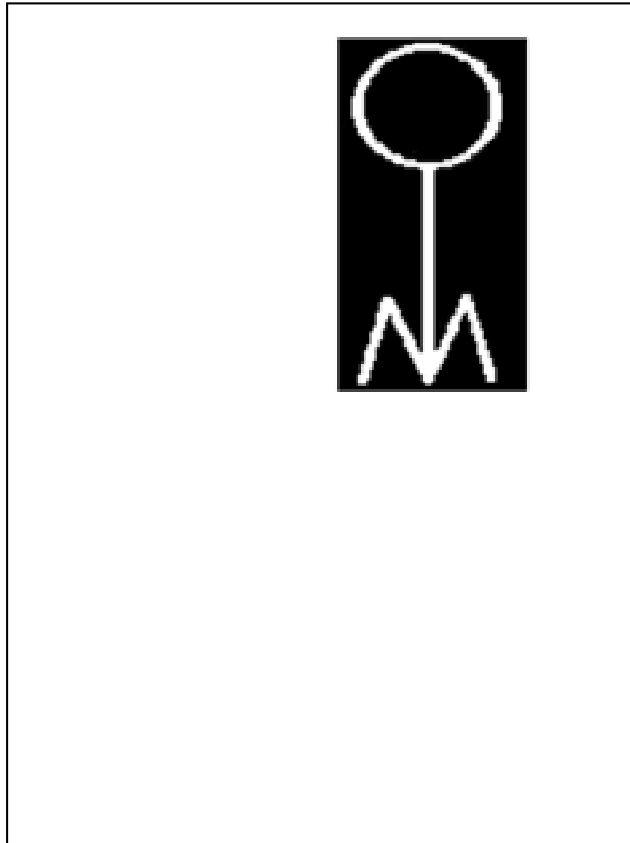
When was Chiron was discovered, scientists began to find out the functions of a protein called Ubiquitin, which seems to start the process of cell-death. But it was not until Pholus' discovery that the term Apoptosis burst into the medical lexicon



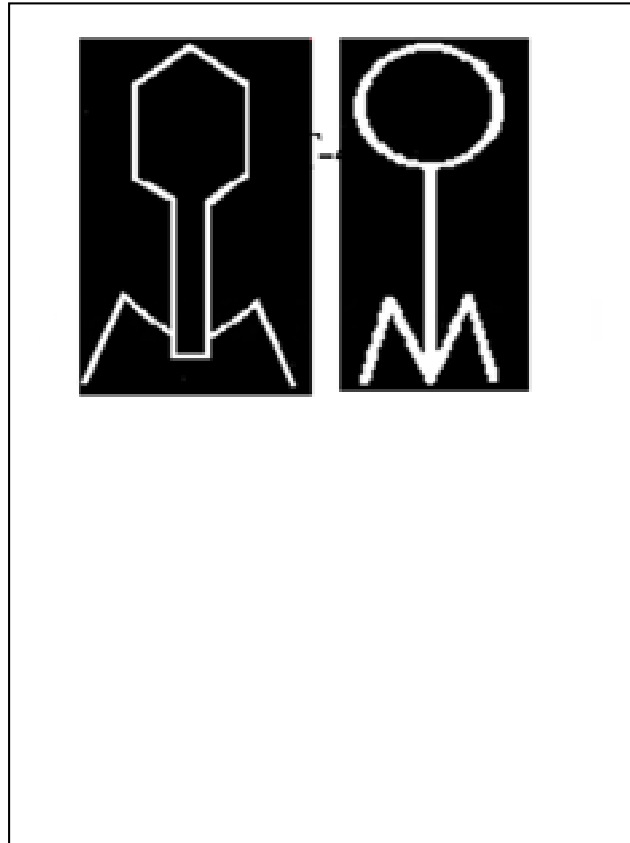
Geron Corp. was founded in 1992, its purpose being to apply principles of cell senescence to treat disorders of aging. Since its founding, it has had several remarkable discoveries connected with something called telomerase, a compound found very active in cancer cells but almost non-existent in normal cells. This compound keeps the cells dividing indefinitely, unlike normal cells which divide so many times and then stop. This company announced, in December 1998, that placing telomerase in normal cells enables them to replicate themselves almost indefinitely, **BUT DOES NOT CAUSE CANCER!** Thus, they may have found the key to halt or slow down aging. Going beyond aging? Perhaps this ties into Pholus' orb, going from Saturn out to Neptune.

Nitric oxide is a gas, primarily seen only as a toxin...until 1992. Then, it was discovered to be an essential neurotransmitter...a biochemical messenger that enables nerve cells to communicate with each other. Nitric oxide was the first gas identified as a neurotransmitter; since then, others have followed. And of course, it was the toxin on Heracles' arrow that killed Pholus.

The Human Genome Project was begun to map the entire makeup of the human species; the first mammal cloned from an adult cell, Dolly the Sheep, was born;



And this is perhaps the most curious connection of all. As I mentioned, the symbol for Pholus came into my mind while meditating on this new body, and so this was the symbol we published in the ephemeris, and in a few articles I wrote that followed.



One day, I received a letter from a woman named Marianne Alexander, who had to tell me that my symbol was remarkably similar to a particular virus known as a T-4 Bacteriophage.....so called because it attacks bacterium by poking a hole into one and inserting its own DNA inside. I'd never heard of this organism before, so I had to look it up, and was stunned.

Marianne shared with me some other events at the time of Pholus discovery.

"103 killed in cholera outbreak in Mali"

"Scientist catch hot zone virus from 500-year old mummy"

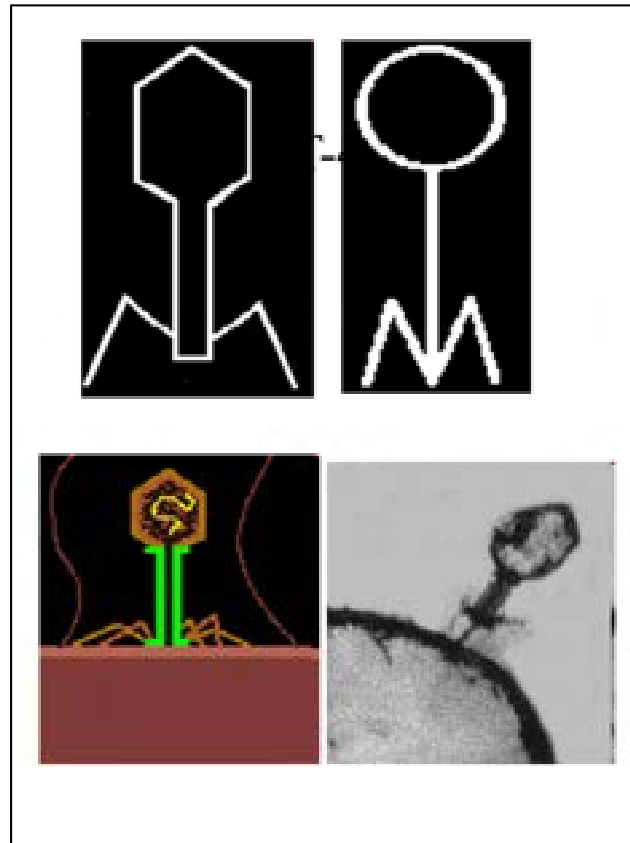
"Firm hopes virus delivers"

"Virus killing shrimp"

"Double whammy: AIDS and TB - twin epidemics feed on each other, U.N. says"

"Deadly epidemic in Nicaragua still a mystery"

"Ebola death toll is 153 of 205 infected"



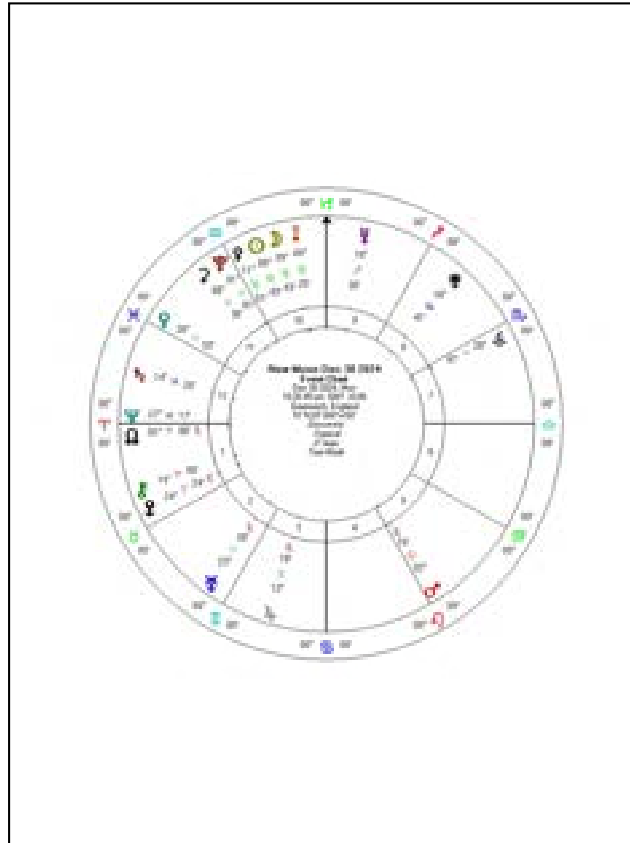
The bacteriophage T4 exemplifies the life cycle of viruses. It exists inactive until one of its extended 'legs' comes into contact with the surface of a bacteria. Sensors on the ends of its 'legs' recognize binding sites on the surface of the host's cell, and this triggers the bacteriophage into action. The bacteriophage binds to the surface of the host, punctures the cell with its injection tube, and then injects its own genetic blueprint. The DNA disables the bacteria's DNA, sets up a little factory to replicate itself, and eventually destroys the whole cell, sending thousands of new T-4's out to attack other bacterium.

Marianne said that this is reminiscent of a mosquito. I can see what she means....the way it inserts it's probe into its victim, and inserts the chemical that will keep the wound open while it does it's drinking. And of course the Malaria mosquito also inserts the parasite it carries.

There is also something reminiscent of how Pholus himself died...getting jabbed by the poison on the tip of the arrow which he had removed from the fallen Centaur.

Marianne wrote, "One meaning of Pholus is viruses - AIDS, Ebola, Hepatitis, and others not so deadly, including computer viruses. It is also poisons, birth defects, DNA and gene research. The flip side of the coin - and there is always a flip side - is that Pholus is prominent in the charts of health care professionals."

Computer viruses go back long before Pholus. The first one, if memory serves me correct, was the Creeper virus in the early 1970's. But it was following the discovery of Pholus that we began to see the proliferation of something called a Macrovirus. Previously, there were viruses designed to attack specific operating systems, so Macintosh computers didn't get viruses that Microsoft computers caught and spread. But the Macrovirus was a program that was attached to a file, such as a Word document or spreadsheet, and went into action once the file was opened. Since such documents were cross platform, it meant that the virus could now infect ANY computer.



When I was preparing this presentation I noticed that there would be an astrological event shortly that would spotlight Pholus: the New Moon. As you can see, Pholus was only 18 minutes away from exact conjunction with the lunation.

You probably know that when a new moon touches a sensitive point in your chart it indicates some type of new beginning, or a fresh approach, in the part of your life represented by that planet. But in this case, if you have anything in your birth chart around 9-1/2 degrees of Aries, Cancer, Libra or Capricorn, there will likely be some Pholus overtones to whatever is happening.

I can't look everyone's charts, so I thought a look at a few of the news headlines around this New Moon might be telling.

The US Surgeon general calls for cancer warnings on alcohol.

First human death from bird flu in the U.S. is reported

Norovirus outbreaks surge nationwide, C.D.C. says

Cases of a respiratory virus known as HMPV are climbing in China

Fewer child vaccinations. After years of holding steady, American vaccination rates against once-common childhood diseases fell during the coronavirus pandemic and continued to drop for much of the past four years.

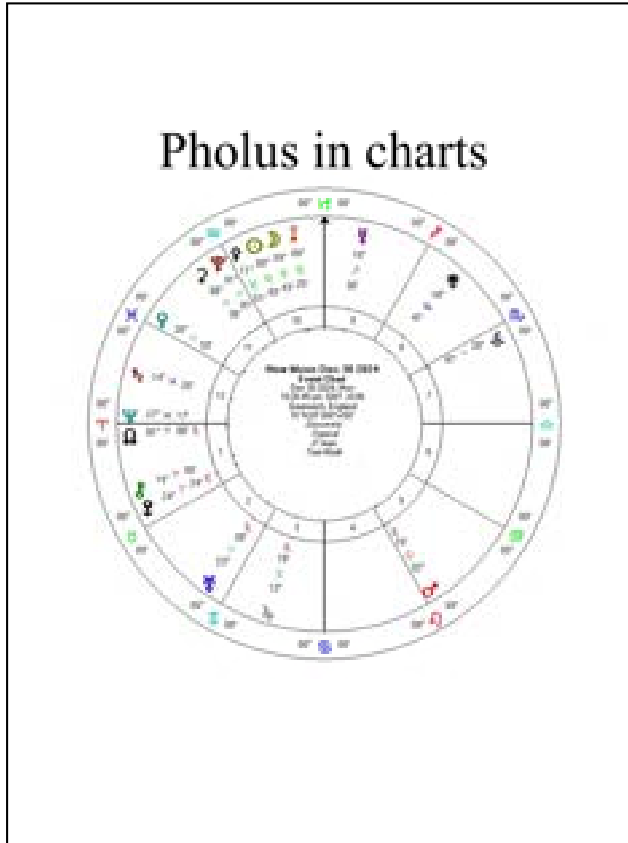
Notice a pattern?

Of course not all the events following a new moon are solely related to the position of the Sun and the Moon. One of the largest news stories has been the wildfires in Los Angeles, and you can definitely see a connection to the Mars/Pluto opposition. But one of the things Pholus does is act like a pressure release (like when you shake up a bottle of soda on a hot day and then open it. This is one of the worst, fastest spreading fires in the recorded history of that area, and it exploded rapidly in every direction. And when firefighters tried tapping the water sources to put out the fires they found out that there was hardly any water pressure and hydrants were running dry all around the area. It was though there had been an unusually high demand for water, it had been rushing out at record levels, releasing all of that water pressure swiftly.

The lunation fell a couple degrees away from Donald Trump's Eris, but square his Mercury in Cancer with less than one degree orb. Remember when a cybertruck exploded outside the Trump Hotel in Los Angeles?

I also suspect this somehow also ties into Trump seemingly out of nowhere talking about expanding the US into Greenland, and retaking the Panama Canal.

Pholus in charts



Transits of Pholus can produce an awakening to the reality of your situation, which can be a bit of a shock. They can push you to the edge of a boundary, make you feel like you are dangling over a huge unknown, something of uncertain or indeterminate nature. The borderline is a very unstable place to be....the unknown can be scary, and may even be dangerous....it is often difficult to handle because it is outside of our experience. It can be very freeing, but sometimes the terror is crippling, because we face what we feel are lacks within ourselves, undeveloped aspects....and these 'lacks' make us feel unable to cope with the unknown. Sometimes, the unconscious takes over when we are spurred on into the unknown, or stumble into it. If we do not run, nor withdraw, as I said, it can be freeing....a release....and we can grow, shedding in many ways our old 'skin' like a snake does when it outgrows it. No matter what the situation, Pholus intensifies the feelings, and there is a pressure to grow building from within, but for some at the border, they freeze up (are blocked), and end up living in a borderline situation.

Decisions can come spontaneously, much like the person who decides to plunge into the water all at once....only here, it is the decision to plunge into the unknown.

Boundaries that once seemed absolute become permeable. This can be great, but it can go both ways, because we can begin to cross the boundaries to go into the unknown....or we can find that elements from the unknown are finding ways to break through the surface of our previously secure boundaries. Sometimes there is chaos when the boundaries dissolve....which is probably a good keyphrase for Pholus, dissolving structures, and the ensuing meltdown.

Pholus can sometimes answer questions raised by Chiron. You can see this in the times each was discovered in, Chiron stirring the research, Pholus finding the answers.

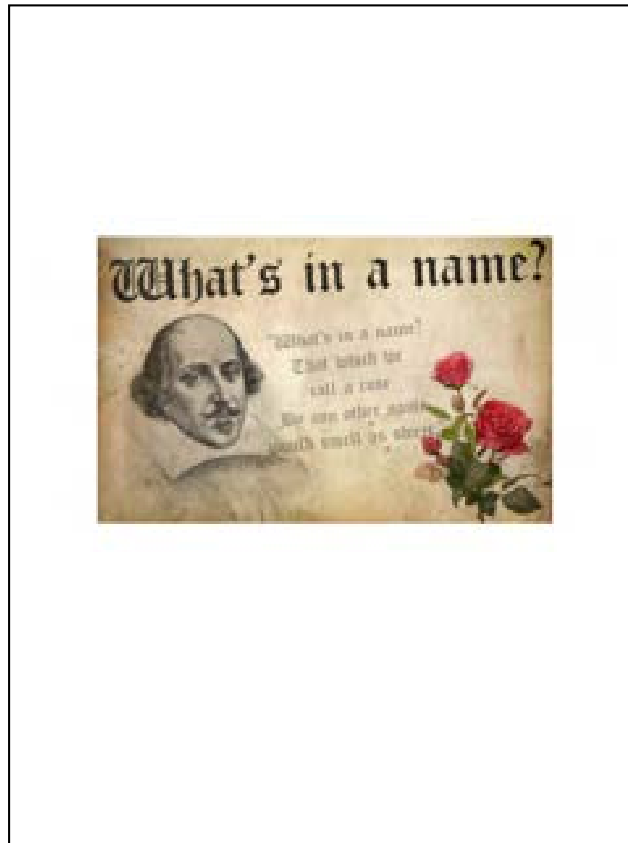
Once the boundary has been crossed, 'going back' ceases to be an option. It's like, once you lose your innocence, you can never regain it.

Like Chiron, it can indicate a communion between two worlds, two dimensions, but with Pholus, the worlds are Saturnian versus Neptunian. There can, likewise, be a clash of cultures, but clash can seem incongruous with Pholus almost like a quincunx.

A blurring of reality can occur. Virtual reality is very much Pholus, as well. It can be vague precognitions, vague apprehensions, which later turn out to be true but which we could not really grasp in time because they were so weak. And it can be feeling spurred on to do something, or even driven, although the reason is not clear.



Let's take a break from Centaurs for a moment and look more more at the backstory. Remember that in 1992 we became aware that our solar system was huge, that the Kuiper Belt was a real thing.



While 15 years elapsed between the discovery of Chiron, and that of Pholus, the world did not have to wait very long for another Centaur. In 1993 the astronomer that discovered Pholus found another new body. It took about 123 years to circle the Sun, and was also an orbit crosser, but more extreme, ranging from almost to Saturn out almost to Pluto. (So we could say it links Saturn and Pluto)

I was one of a small group of astrologers who acquired a table of its positions before it was given a name, and began researching it. I began to see certain patterns that reminded me of the myth of a Centaur named Nessus. (I was also studying a few other similar bodies at the time.)

In 1995 I put together a list of Centaur names and possible bodies to connect them with and sent it off to Dr. Marsden as suggestions when it came time to name them, and Nessus was one of them. I received a letter back in which he replied that the body found in 1993 it would most likely be officially named in the Spring of 1997, and he would see what he could do about having the name Nessus accepted.

I didn't know that some European astrologers, Robert Von Heeren and Dieter Koch had independently followed a similar path. In correspondence Robert told me that he and Dieter had sent in their recommendations for naming several centaurs, including this new body in 1995 to Dr. Marsden. He concluded his letter with these words:

"But really important is: the coincidence or the synchronicity of OUR (three) most simultaneous recommendation (and idea) of the SAME name for 1993 HA2."

And on April 22, 1997, it was officially given the name Nessus.

Robert, Dieter and I began to wonder if this friendly relationship between astrologers and astronomers might somehow be related to Nessus itself!

Nessus' Origin



Nessus in mythology could trace his ancestry back to a king named Ixion, who ruled over the Lapiths. He was not a very honorable king. For example, when he married. He decided not to pay the previously agreed upon price to her father. Her father kept some of Ixion's horses as security for the debt, and told her father that he would pay his due if the horses were brought to him. But when the father arrived Ixion murdered him. Like Cain in the Bible's Old Testament, Ixion has the distinction of being the first human to shed kindred blood (by killing his father-in-law to avoid making payment for his bride). To the Greeks, murder of a kinsman was a particularly horrible act....and for awhile, no human or god would purify him.

Finally, Zeus (Jupiter) decided to forgive Ixion and invited him to Olympus for the purification ritual. But while there, Ixion committed an even worse sin...he tried to seduce Zeus' wife, Hera (Juno)! She told her husband, who then decided to verify Ixion's guilt with a test: he took a cloud, shaped it like Hera, and set it where Ixion would find it. Well, Ixion took the bait, and slept with the fake Hera.

When Ixion came down to earth, he bragged to other mortals about sleeping with the queen of the gods. In punishment, Zeus bound Ixion to a winged or flaming spinning wheel upon which Ixion was forced to continuously repeat: "show gratitude to your benefactor." In some stories, the wheel was placed in the sky, but the more common version has this wheel forever turning in the Underworld. The theme here is of sinner on display, not only for guilt of spilling kindred blood, but for the disrespect and betrayal in the guest/host relationship.

From the cloud was born Centaurus, as a result of Ixion's sexual intercourse with the fake Hera. In most stories, Centaurus later descended upon a herd of horses, mated with the mares, and begat the Centaurs.

And so Nessus was sibling to what later became a herd of Centaurs living on Mount Pelion.

NESSUS and DEIANIRA



Like most stories involving Centaurs, the Nessus one also centered around Hercules.

Hercules was very attracted to a young woman named Deianira, slept with her, and then agreed to marry her. I think the two were on their honeymoon, travelling around the land, and at one point they had to cross a river that was overflowing. Nessus, according to the myth, offered to ferry Hercules' wife across a river.....and when he reached the other side far ahead of Hercules, tried to rape her. Hercules, quite naturally enraged, shot Nessus with a poison arrow. As Nessus lay dying, he told Hercules' wife that, should Hercules ever be unfaithful, she could bring him back to her by placing the blood-soaked cloak (now on Nessus' back) over Hercules' shoulders. (In some of the more graphic stories, though, it was a mixture of his blood and semen that Nessus told Deianira to scoop up....and to put on a cloak one day should Hercules stray in his affections.) . (There is a variation to the story where he did not die right away after giving her the cloak, but escaped and died elsewhere, his body rotting unburied, giving a foul stench to even the waters nearby.)

Years later, she remembered Nessus' words, and when she suspected he was being attracted by a much younger woman, did precisely that. But Nessus lied....on his death bed, he wanted revenge. The cloak caused Hercules to burn up with flames of magic, and he was in terrible pain. Hera finally relented, allowed his physical body to die on earth, and translated him to Mount Olympus where he was made one of the gods for all time. (Something to ponder....it was Nessus' poisonous act that, in actuality, healed the feud between Hera and Hercules. And something else to ponder....Hercules' poison arrows had caused the death/transformation of two noble Centaurs, so perhaps it is fitting that his own occurred at the hands of another Centaur he had killed, however justified his anger might have been.)

It is interesting that, many years earlier, Zeus had told Hercules that he would be killed by a dead enemy!

Hercules, by the way, had numerous stories of being overcome by his own dark side and causing

great harm. He once in a fit of blind rage killed his first wife and child. It is said this rage was caused by Juno's hatred towards him.

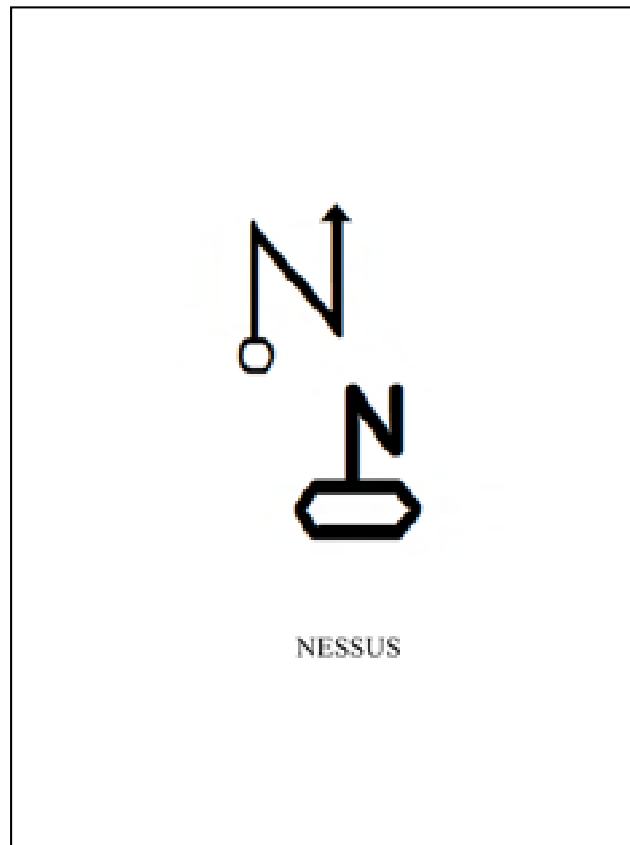
Nessus Orbit



Like I mentioned Nessus has an orbit of about 123 years, more than twice as long as Chiron's orbit, and even longer than Uranus' orbit.

Nessus was discovered at 4 Scorpio 49. Perhaps a fitting degree, considering the myths. The Sabian symbol is "A massive rocky shore presents its unchanging face of the centuries to the furies and coaxing calms of the sea." You can feel the power of the sea, but even more, the strength to resist change no matter what. Nessus went to his death holding on to his hatred for Heracles, unrepentant to the end.

Once upon a time, Saturn was thought to be the last planet out, and was equated with cycles, endings, and even with death. It still is, to my understanding, in Vedic astrology which has not embraced the outer planets. But since Pluto was discovered, we now see it as the planet of death, and transformation, and rebirth. So did Saturn simply hand over the reigns to the deathsteed and say, "Here, Pluto, you drive."? No, what we have here, as I see it, as 'apparent' versus 'true.' Saturn is the apparent reality, the death in the short term perhaps, while Pluto is a much deeper reality, death in the long term sense. Look at it this way: we die, and all of our body's functions come to a stop, and we are laid cold in the ground. That sounds like Saturn to me. But there's much more than that going on. The body starts to decompose, transforming into elements to nourish the earth, and the spirit departs the body and goes elsewhere, perhaps to be reborn. That sounds like Pluto to me.



Astrologer Juan Revilla wrote an essay called “The Redemption of Nessus” and I’d like to read a small part of that here:

"What are the dynamics of Nessus that manifests in a monstrous, poisonous way? The vulnerability of Deianira, Nessus lust, and Heracles rawness are part of the same cruel story. If I take Heracles as "raw" humanity, then the "bad blood" associated with Nessus is the consequence or continuation of the cruelty and violence that Heracles represents. What Nessus does is leave Heracles violence and cruelty naked, which means he could be the cure, for example, not only the disease. Like an homeopathic remedy or a vaccine, the disease has to come out in order to heal it..."

Josh Payne wrote of the connection between Nessus and the Frankenstein monster:

"though he may be a hideous monster, Nessus has a heart, has fragility. The monster just wants to be accepted and loved (especially by his creator)...“ He said that the Frankenstein story was "...an extremely touching portrayal of the plight of the deformed outcast, especially the scene in which he is talking to the blind man... The words he utters (I don't remember exactly), "people are afraid... because I am so.... ugly" express such a tremendous pain, which embodies how hard it is for us to say something like 'I am so ugly'."

Juan replied, "These very few words of Josh are the best I have ever read about Nessus." "Frankenstein longed for love and sympathy, but he became something dark and destructive, inspiring only horror and loathing. Nevertheless he had a human heart, he was our creation, a part of ourselves that is socially despised. His creator (which is his mirror-image), trespassed the boundaries of life, death, and social morality."

Carl Jung, as many of you probably know, was a disciple of Freud who broke out on his own, and was a believer in astrology. Although the Centaur named Nessus was unknown to Jung, I think he captured it's essence in this passage from his book, “Concerning Rebirth:”

"Every calling or profession has its own characteristic persona. It is easy to study these things nowadays, when the photographs of public personalities so frequently appear in the press. A certain kind of behaviour is forced on them by the world, and professional people endeavour to come up to these expectations. Only, the danger is that they become identical with their personas-the professor with his text-book, the tenor with his voice. Then the damage is done; henceforth he lives exclusively against the background of his own biography. . . . The garment of Deianeira has grown fast to his skin, and a desperate decision like that of Heracles is needed if he is to tear this Nessus shirt from his body and step into the consuming fire of the flame of immortality, in order to transform himself into what he really is. One could say, with a little exaggeration, that the persona is that which in reality one is not, but which oneself as well as others think one is."

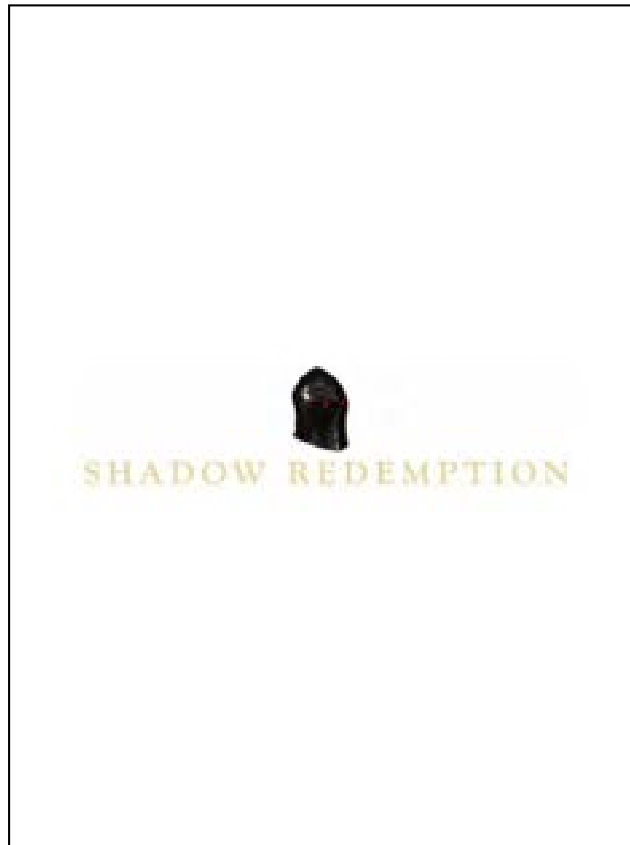


I had an early lesson in the power of Nessus when, while transiting my 8th house, it reached opposition to my natal Nessus. If a body is significant astrologically, it's hard aspects to its natal positions should speak to us about the nature of its cycle.

At that time, I was living with a woman named Sandra, and we had discovered a bit earlier that she was pregnant, and had planned to name the baby Rebecca.

Sandra had her Neptune only a few minutes away from opposition to my Nessus, so when Nessus opposed it's own place in my chart, it was only minutes away from exact conjunction to her Neptune. We were called into the doctor's office, where we received the news that the baby had Triploidy. If you've never heard of it, that's an extra set of chromosomes, a condition that causes most babies to die in the womb, jeopardizing the life of the mother, and of those who survive to term, not a one has lived past 5 months, and all of those only stayed alive on life support. We were advised by the doctor that, while it was our decision, the wisest thing was to induce labor and have the baby stillborn. After much pain and heartache, we said yes, probably the most painful decision either of us ever had to make. We went together, one time, to her grave. The grief was hard to bear. And I've never been sure that our relationship falling apart afterwards was not at least partly because of Rebecca.

This, and a few other Nessus transits, changed my life, and forced me to reach down deep within myself. There was a lot of pain in each situation, but each was, in a way, a catharsis. I got to know myself better, being forced to accept that I had thoughts/feelings I had which I had previously tried to repress as 'bad'.



Nessus can show the feelings of being defective, a monster, or we can see those qualities projected on another. It can tap our cruel, nasty, manipulative side, pushing us to even unspeakable acts, and yet it can also show us the contrast of the “Beauty and the Beast” stories. There can be inner rage, and dark fantasies. It can force you to face deep pain, and then be forced to make choices as a result of, or while under the influence of, this pain. Or to go through major transformation as a result of the shock of the intense pain.

The Nessus feelings can feel the most righteous to a person, even if they are cruel, even inhumane, in the eyes of others. So much so that they can lead to a kind of blind fanaticism. Nessus’ darkest side can lead to revenge, treachery, even betrayal. It can bring out the passion that is just this side of madness that one sees in movies like Die Hard, where almost brute force aligns with super self-control after being pushed to the point of no return.

If Chiron opens the door to Uranus, and the freedom it offers, and Pholus opens the door to Neptune, and its larger world without walls, Nessus can open the door to a personal hell, but also to personal redemption.

There is something of the fragility of life in Nessus, and how little it might take to bring about its end.

But we must never forget that even the bodies with the darkest of dark sides are not all evil. The universe is not inherently out to get us. Think of Nessus finding a way for astrologers and astronomers to share a common ground. British astrologer Nick Campion wrote of Nessus: "Could it be that this planetary body encompasses the idea of science and the metaphysical approach working together for higher knowledge?"

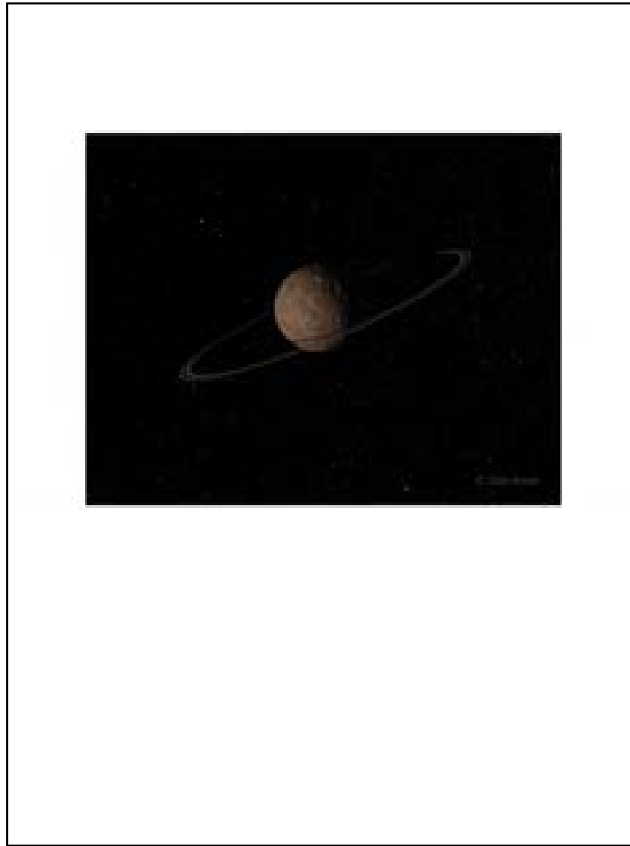
♄ CHARIKLO



Next I want to talk about my favourite Centaur. Discovered in 1997, and taking almost 63 years to orbit the Sun, she is in some ways very un-centaurlike.

For example, her orbit stay completely within the confines of Saturn and Uranus, almost circular, so she is not an orbit crosser.

She is huge. Her discovery changed Chiron's status to the second largest Centaur.



Remember how they discovered rings about the planet Uranus?

Well a few years ago Chariklo became the first Minor Planet (and the first Centaurean body) to be shown to have rings. (And rings were found around Chiron as well.)

Thus the two bodies who spend most of their time between ringed Saturn and Ringed Uranus both have rings!



Once upon a time there was a creature of the forest. She was in fact a nymph, and her name was Chariklo. Her mother, Stilbe, was a Naiad-nymph (a water nymph.) Chariklo's father was born from a union of one of the gods (Apollo and Poseidon are the two most frequently named) with a nymph name Salamis. So we can say that Chariklo was descended from nymphs on both sides of the family, and from her father's side she inherited some divinity.

She happily spent her days amongst the trees. Some say that in her youth she was a much-loved and constant companion to Athena, while others say that was another being with a similar name. But in any event, she was very happy in the forest and the only creatures she saw around her were creatures of the woods. Perhaps would have continued living that life if something unexpected had not occurred. I want to stress this: Chariklo was not expecting what would soon happen.

One day she happened to look in the direction of a clearing in the woods and was stunned by what she saw. There in the distance there was a being unlike any she had ever seen. Perhaps a better word would be 'struck', for she fell under the spell of one of Cupid's arrows. It was love at first sight, she thought he was the most beautiful being she had ever seen, and she wanted to rush to him and tell him she loved him.

But there was a problem. She knew that the Centaur would not look at her the same way...that there was no way he would think of her as a mate. She reasoned that there was so much more to him, in essence, than there was to her, that he likely would not even notice her.

And then she knew what she had to do. She would become like him.

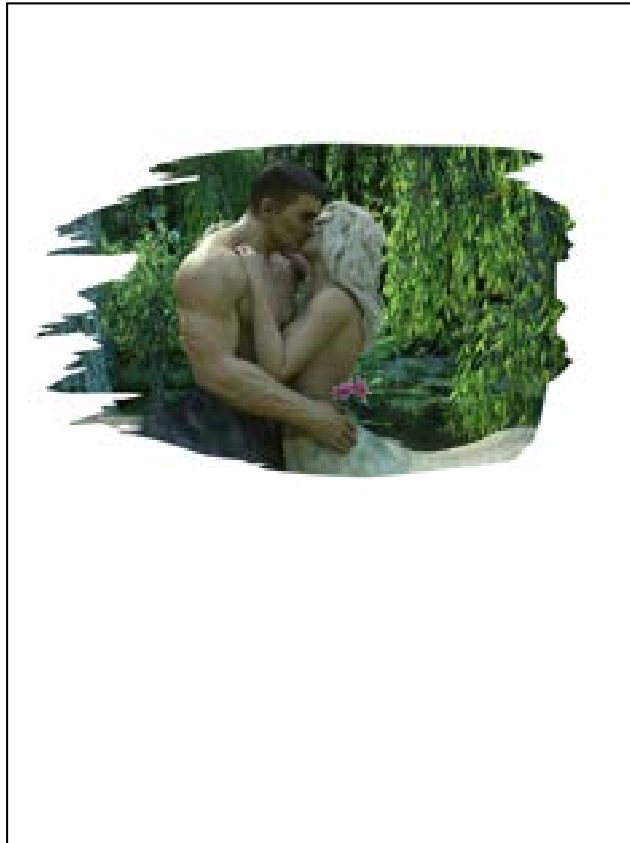


Chariklo changed herself into the form of a Centaur, a form she would keep for the rest of her life.

And then she walked, or perhaps, galloped, up to Chiron.

Cupid must have been hanging around still because the moment Chiron saw her he fell totally and incurably in love with Chariklo.

And the rest, as they say, was written in the stars.



This moment in time forever changed both their lives, and how they each saw themselves.

Remember how Chiron carried the emotional wound, since birth, that he was a horrible monster?

Imagine if you will Chariklo's impact on him....she thought he was so beautiful, she wanted to be with him so much, that she changed herself into his form. This act helped him to heal from the false story he grew up with, that he was a monster. Seeing himself through her eyes he was anything but that.

When Chiron eventually was on his deathbed, Chariklo was with him, comforting him, easing his transition from this earthly realm. And then she looked up in the sky, with love, and saw him forever above her as the constellation. I think the Sabian symbol for her discovery degree, 7 Leo, is very fitting: "The constellations of stars shine brightly in the night sky"



One can never undo a wound. But Chariklo can help one to dispel the untruths that one has that has shaped them, and if a major change is necessary she can make it easier to accept it and help have a much more positive attitude about what one must become.

Think of a caterpillar who spins a cocoon and comes out a butterfly. Chariklo doesn't bring about the transformation, but perhaps her presence is the reason the caterpillar goes ahead and begins spinning the cocoon without any trepidation.

Chiron deeply believed that he was very flawed. Anytime he passed a pond and saw his reflection mirrored he knew he was a monster. He carried within him a self loathing.

So imagine the impact it had on him when this woman not only does not see him as a monster, but wants to be with him so much she transforms herself into the very form he had spent a lifetime hating.

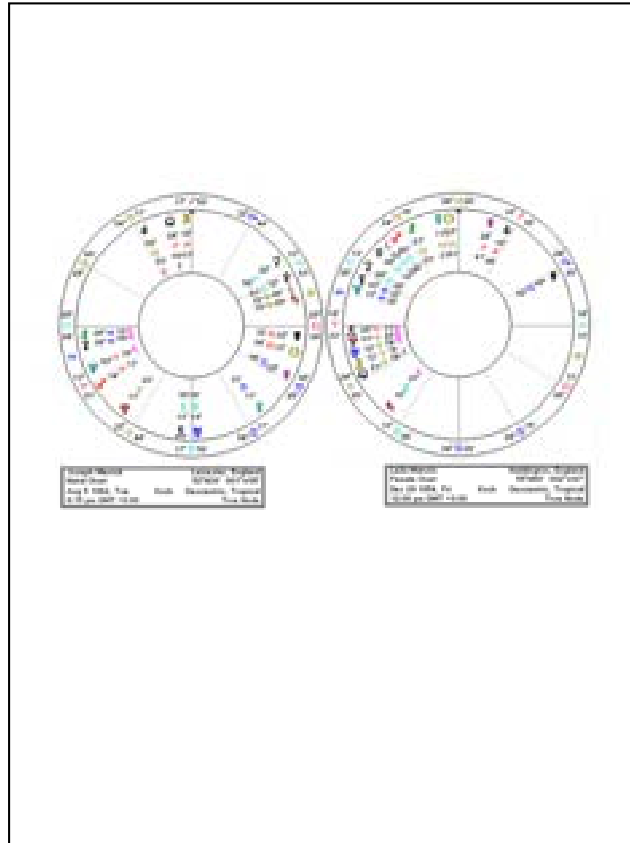
She wasn't saying, I find you beautiful in spite of your flaws...she was saying, "to me, you are beautiful, you are perfect."



I would like to give you a real-life example of Chariklo's grace. This photo a real picture of someone named Joseph Merrick. You may be more familiar with him by his nickname, The Elephant Man. A normal child at birth, at age five he began to develop strange overgrowths of skin, bones and muscles known as Proteus Syndrome, and he was completely disfigured when he reached adulthood. Everyone who saw him turned away in horror or disgust, even his own parents. The only job he was able to find was as an exhibit in a carnival sideshow. Seeing people's looks, hearing their comments, he was always depressed, always saw himself as a monster.

The rulers of his Ascendant in square (Saturn to Uranus), with Saturn conjunct Jupiter, and making a t-square with his Moon. Excessive, erratic growth of skin and bone, unconventional appearance, a lot of attention from the public. And that would put his Chiron/Eris conjunction in the first house. People with Chiron in the first never feel that they quite fit, as if they are strangers in a strange land. They don't necessarily have low self-esteem, but they do always feel that they different, and that other people see them as different. And Eris ascending people just seem to always be rocking the boat, wherever they go, just by being themselves.

Chariklo in the 3rd house, and he just doesn't feel able to communicate. It didn't help in that the older he got, the more misshapen his face, and the less intelligible his words became to the listener. Chariklo is conjunct his Sun/Mars midpoint. Ebertin said the principles of this midpoint were the will to live, vitality, and vigor, so if Chariklo is activated, one would expect him to feel much more alive, and more energetic.



At one point the sideshow was forced to close down by authorities who felt he was too upsetting to members of the community. Nowhere to go, he wandered the streets, extremely depressed and having nowhere to go.

A doctor saw him and, realizing his depression and homelessness was impacting his health and would be the death of him, invited Joseph to come stay in the local hospital. He realized that Joseph had spent his lifetime receiving, at best, gazes turned away, and at worst, expressions of horror, or being called a monster.

So the doctor had an idea. He went and talked to one of his dearest friends, a young widow named Leila, asked if she would be willing to meet this man, be able to show no disgust, shake his hand and smile at him. Without hesitation, she agreed.

The doctor's journal described their first meeting:

She "entered with easy grace, smiling as she approached" and sat down by the bed, and took his hand.

"Hello," she said. "How are you?" Merrick gripped her hand, then began sobbing, crying for a long while, making the visit cut short. The doctor journaled that he saw an immediate improvement in Merrick's attitude and also his health. Joseph later told the doctor that had been the first woman ever to smile at him, the first to shake his hand. He never forgot Leila and corresponded with her regularly thereafter.

Leila had a Saturn square Neptune, which was conjunct and square, respectively, Joseph's Chariklo, and her Venus was quincunx to it. And Leila's Chariklo was pretty much in exact semisquare to Joseph's Chariklo, while squaring his Mercury.

We don't know the exact date of this first meeting, but around this time transiting Chariklo was around mid Sagittarius, so touching off these aspects.



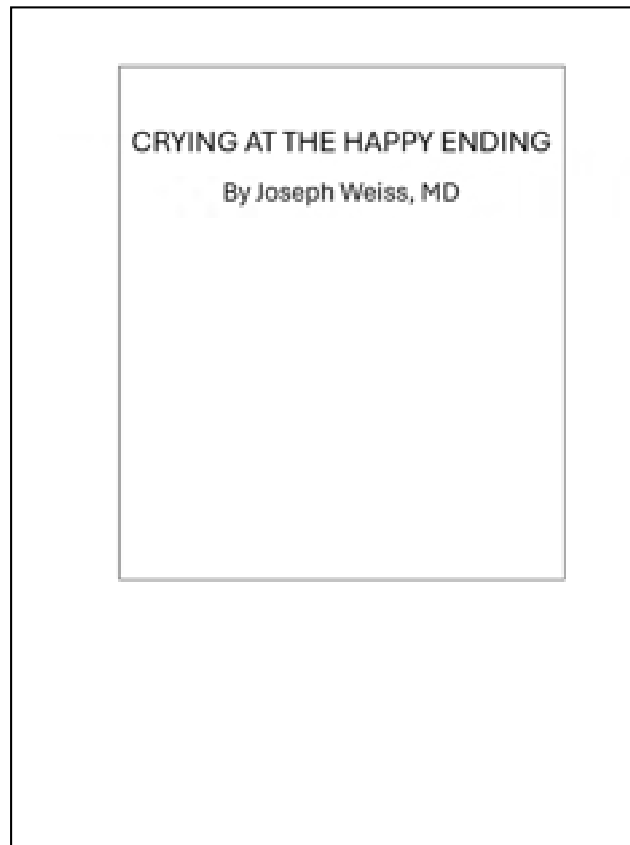
There was something very powerful going on at that moment. By looking at him as a person, by touching him without any trepidation, it was as if she had created a sacred space where he was not defective..where he was whole just as he was. It was a moment so powerful, one could almost say it was holy. And he was overcome with emotion, a lifetime of hurt, and pain, pouring out of him in a cleansing shower of tears.

I will return to the idea of Sacred Space shortly. But I want to show you Chariklo from another perspective.

When I first began researching Chariklo I kept seeing her prominent in charts of important scientific researchers...people who look at the past, and then take a step into a future full of potentialities. Alexander Graham Bell, who you may know of as inventor of the telephone, had a close Mercury conjunct Chariklo opposing his Moon. His mother was almost deaf, and while he did not see her as defective, he often was extremely frustrated that talking with her using sign language was a very long and laborious experience. He then came upon the idea of putting their heads together when he spoke, and through the resonance she was able to understand most of what he said. He would later use this as one of the techniques taught in the school he started for deaf children. Seeing them as not defective, just in need of being reached in a different way.

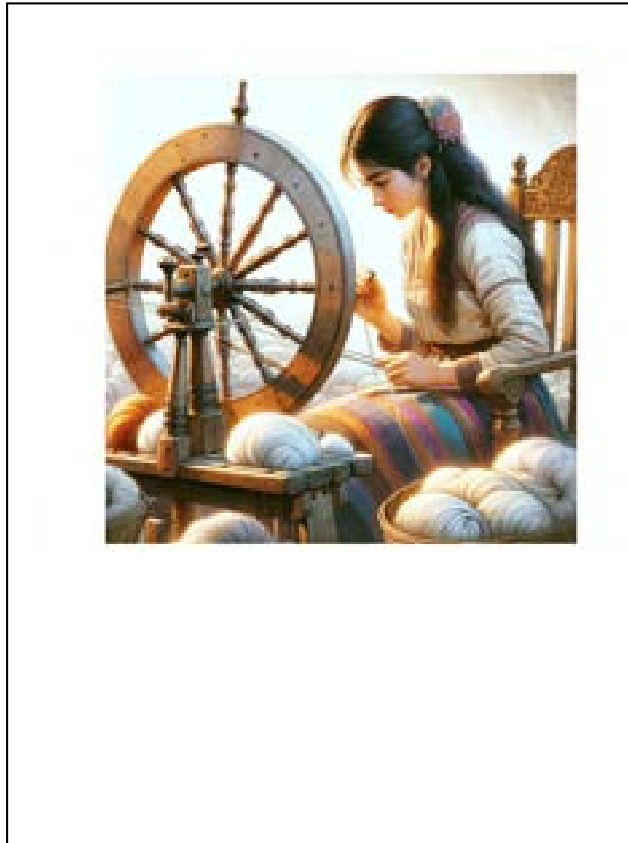
And in fact, Bell was instrumental in helping to find Annie Sullivan, who became teacher for Helen Keller (who was both deaf and blind).

The more charts of scientists I looked at the more it seemed that Chariklo was guiding them to look at limitations built in to accepted concepts of reality and pushing them to question those limitations, see reality in a new light, one that potentially had so much more to it than was taken for granted. They look at the past, question assumptions, question supposed reality, and then take a step into a future outside that limited worldview. Albert Einstein, for example, was born with Chariklo almost exactly opposite his Mercury/Saturn conjunction.



I read about a doctor Joseph Weiss who was born with Chariklo in Gemini quincunx his Saturn, but almost to the minute square his nodal axis. He developed a treatment called Control Mastery Theory, where the basic premise is that negative beliefs about the self are rooted in childhood traumas, and continue to impact the adult's mental health. And he felt felt that the most important aspect of the healing process is that the therapist must find a way to create an environment where people feel it is OK to allow the repressed experiences to come to the surface. That is, that people must feel totally safe, free of any fear of being judged in any way for what comes up.

His first published clinical work, entitled "Crying at the Happy Ending", was about the discovery that people often ward off painful feelings until it was safe to face them (such as the person who cries at the end of a motion picture when the separated lovers are finally once more united.)



Chariklo's name comes from two Greek words, Charis (meaning grace or kindness) and klotho (meaning to spin, as in cloth.) Literally, it means Graceful Spinner, but it could also be Spinner of Grace.

Ask a member of a religious order to define Grace and you'll receive an answer something like this:
the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God.

I like to imagine Chariklo spinning.... If she is speaking through a writer, we could say perhaps that she spins a yarn. If she is speaking through a scientist, perhaps we could say that she spins him around until he looks in a whole new direction. Chariklo, clearly, is an important body in astrological charts in her own right. I say this because when I first began studying her I tended to see everything about her in terms of her relationship with Chiron, but now I know she is her own person; the Chariklo archetype is powerful one.

There is a special significance in the charts when these two come together. We can say a lot about a person by looking at their Venus, and looking at their Mars also tells us a lot, even if we never look at them together. But they tell a unique story for the person when we look at their relationship. And so it is with Chiron and Chariklo.

If Chariklo is speaking to a loved one she weaves a cloth of unconditional love and acceptance. And Chiron responds, sometimes overwhelmed, but always in some manner transformed. I remember once seeing a bumper sticker with a quote by blues singer Ethel Waters. It said "I am somebody cause God don't make no junk." (Ethel herself had a close Mars quincunx Chariklo.) It is through these eyes that Chariklo looks at someone and sees them as beautiful, her love bathing him in light of grace that helps him heal from the false beliefs of his brokenness.

Chariklo can, by spinning her grace, perform a miracle. What amazes me is that the miracle does not require there to be an aspect between Chiron and Chariklo for the two to work together towards healing. It is as if Chariklo, with her almost perfectly round orbit, totally bathes the other in her loving grace, surrounding them completely to create the safe place. And in doing so the person feels they can safely be themselves, not just letting only a part of themselves come out, but every part. And this includes their wounds, even the deepest ones, with all the accompanying pains.



I have Chariklo in Sag at the top of my chart, conjunct the MC and opposing my Mercury/Mars conjunction in Gemini. As you might imagine I have quite a few personal Chariklo stories I could share, if I had time. But I think I will just tell you one of them.

In high school I had excellent grades, and in my senior year I was told that I would have to give a speech at graduation, something I was not thrilled about. Although I was talkative with friends, I was very shy otherwise and had never spoken before a group. My English teacher was entrusted the task of helping myself and the other two speakers to prepare for our presentation. She had us get up in front of our class at one point and give the speech we had been working on. When it was my turn, I was really stressed, and when I spoke it was with a very quiet, monotone voice. My teacher made me start again a couple of times, trying to get me to put some life into the presentation...without success. She stopped me again, and said, "Zane, I want you to put some feeling into it. Speak like you are really mad at me." At this point something happened, and I said, in a nice clear calm voice, "Mrs. Schreiberman, I don't get mad, I get angry." The whole class laughed when I corrected the English teacher and her face turned a bit red. But I felt really alive, and after the laughter subsided, I started to give my talk speech again, "with gusto", as they say, and after I was finished, the class applauded, my teacher said that was perfect, and she said I didn't need further rehearsals, just give it like that at graduation. On this day, Pluto in my 7th was almost exactly square my natal Chariklo, and transiting Chariklo was minutes away from exact conjunction to my Ascendant

OKYRHOE



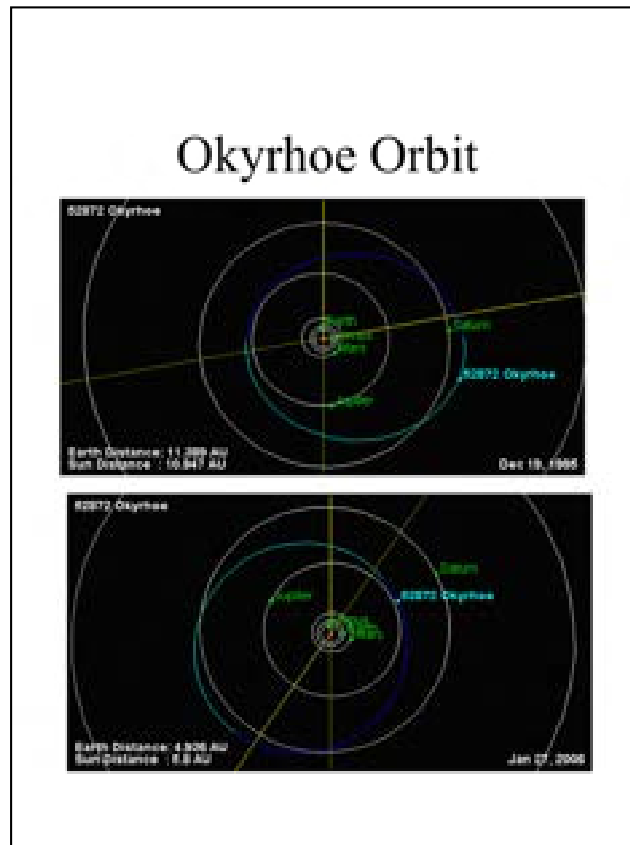
Chiron and Chariklo lived together for many years, and they had a few children, all of them Centaurs. One of these children was Okyrhoe, and her name was another one suggested to astronomers by astrologers. This body, like most other Centaurs, is also an orbit crosser, but has a more inner realm.

When Okyrhoe is closest to the Sun (perihelion), it almost reaches Jupiter's orbit, while when furthest from the Sun (aphelion), it goes well out beyond the orbit of Saturn. Thus, it could be viewed as a bridge between Jupiter and Saturn. It has the shortest orbital cycle of any Centaur, only 24.3 years --- shorter than Saturn's orbit.

This child of Chiron and Chariklo was born with the gift of prophecy. On one occasion, Apollo brought baby Aesculapius for Chiron to take care of and raise, and Okyrhoe went into a seeming trance and spoke:

Grow strong, dear boy
Healer of all the world.
Often to you
Men shall owe health and life,
and yours shall be
The right to win again departed souls,
And, though you dare this once in heaven's despite,
Jove's bolt will thwart that gift a second time.
You, now divine, shall be a lifeless corpse,
And from a corpse become divine again,
And twice you shall renew your destiny.

This child, taught healing by Chiron, grew to be one of the greatest healers ever known. But when he got to be so good at it that he began bringing the dead back to life, the gods (especially Pluto) became angry and struck him dead. However, they later brought him back to life as an immortal and he joined the pantheon as the god of healing.



Okyrhoe had a gift, it is true. But she was also entrusted not to reveal some things the gods wanted kept hidden, and when she broke the rules, she suffered for it.

One day, she predicted that her father, an immortal, would be granted death by the other gods because the pain of a serpent's venom would torment him. But she only was able to speak part of the prophecy.

Apollo turned her into a mare as punishment for revealing the plans of the gods to humankind, and she ceased being able to speak before she could finish.

The Sabian Symbol for the degree of Okyrhoe's discovery reads, " Ecclesiastical reform of drastic nature is in progress. A purged and purified priesthood opens a new ministry." There was a kind of purging/purification, as the gods chose to chastise their 'disciple' for their kind of blaspheming. This is one side of Okyrhoe....being confronted with the fact that you have overstepped bounds....gone too far, perhaps, and that there will be consequences.

Okyrhoe's orbit is short, as befitting that of a child. Her orbit, therefore, is less 'aggressive', shall we say, than the other Centaurs. The judgement's passed upon her for disrespecting the authorities can be likened to the punishments imparted to adolescents who break a taboo. Unlike most of the other Centaurs, Okyrhoe's 'crime' was not warlike, nor aggressive. If anything, it was out of frustration. And we can see this expressing itself in the charts of people with close Okyrhoe aspects. She would tell the truth....even if it wasn't pretty.

But we can also see the other side....that if the person is willing to work within the rules of the system, they can express a gift of prophesy which can serve them well. And I also see Okyrhoe honoring her father by viewing healing as a sacred act, something that is more important than anything else.

ECHECLUS



There are a few more Centaurs that stand out because they are unique, even among Centaurs.

Do you remember me telling you that Chiron has small bursts of cometary activity? None of the other Centaurean bodies were noticed to do so, until in Dec 2005 a coma was detected around Echeclus, and amazingly, at the time it was further away from the Sun at this time than any other body has been seen to have a coma.

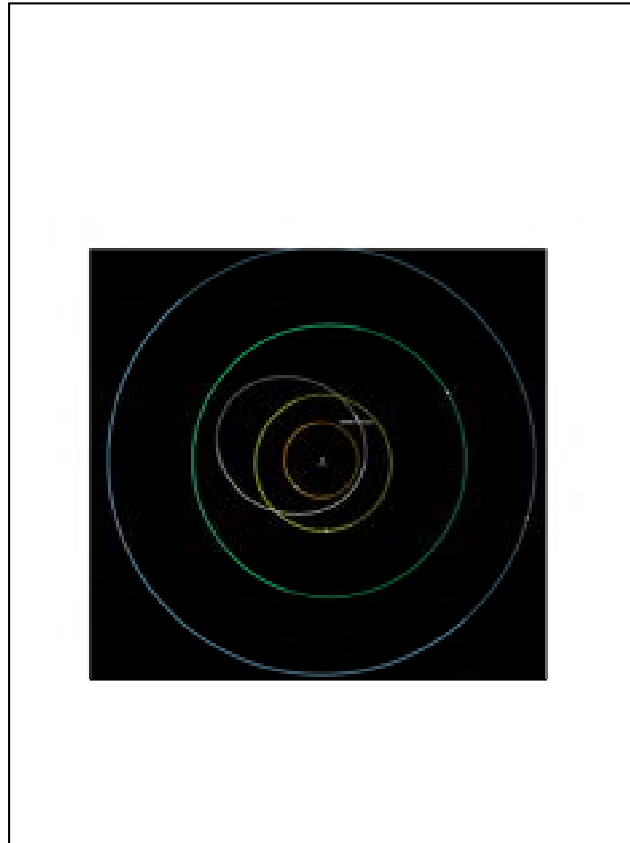
It's orbit is about 35-1/3 years. A person has a Saturn return around age 28, and about seven years later Saturn squares it's natal position like it did when they were around seven. And so a person has an Echeclus return coinciding with Saturn square Saturn.

There isn't much mythology. Echeclus was one of the descendents of Ixion, and he was one of those who died at the wedding when one of the Lapiths drove a wooden spear into his face. Not much to go on there.

Research has pointed to two themes with this body, the first very dark.

Saturn and Echeclus have only made one conjunction over the past 120 years, in 1888. All of the killings attributed to the notorious Jack the Ripper occurred around this aspect, the third and fourth victims being found when the conjunct was exact. We don't know his identity, but looking at the charts of serial killers Angelo Bruno, Richard Speck, Edward Gein and Peter Sutcliff we see the Sun closely conjunct or square this body, and Jeffrey Dahmer had an almost exact Venus square Echeclus.

It isn't an evil influence per se, however, and like all points in astrology there is a positive side.



The following people all have a close conjunction of Echeclus to Mercury:

Lesley Gore, Ann Landers and Abigail Van Buren, Charles Bukowski, Peter Sellers, William Faulkner, Ken Follet, Christopher Lloyd, and Mahatma Gandhi.

As I looked at these, and others, I began to see a common thread. I found a female singer who sang a song that moved thousands of people with the key phrase, “You don’t own me.” A male singer who has had a number of rebel anthems. A wise man who said that freedom is not real freedom, unless people are free to err, free to make mistakes. A man who says that fear and conformity are heavy burdens. A writer who refuses to embrace standard, formal structure in his writings. A writer who is quoted as saying, “Some people never go crazy. What truly horrible lives they must live.”

In each case, we had a person who dared to be themselves, either vocally or in writing, no matter what the consequence. If asked to define Freedom, they might each say that it is a person’s ability to assert themselves authentically...and this is one of the keys for this Centaur.

This ‘asserting the self authentically’ can be a wonderfully positive thing. But if it is the dark side that takes over, you have the killer leaving his ‘authentic’ stamp on the shattered lives of others.

Echeclus can promote a deep fear of ‘them’. One can fight back against the fear, or make one cling tightly to whatever they feel is ‘us’, leading some to put walls up to protect them, and to go out of their way to show clearly that they are not ‘them’. Senator Joseph McCarthy who led the anti-communist witch hunts in the US, had a prominent Echeclus in the tenth house closely square his intense Mars/Pluto conjunction.

HYLONOME AND CYLLARUS

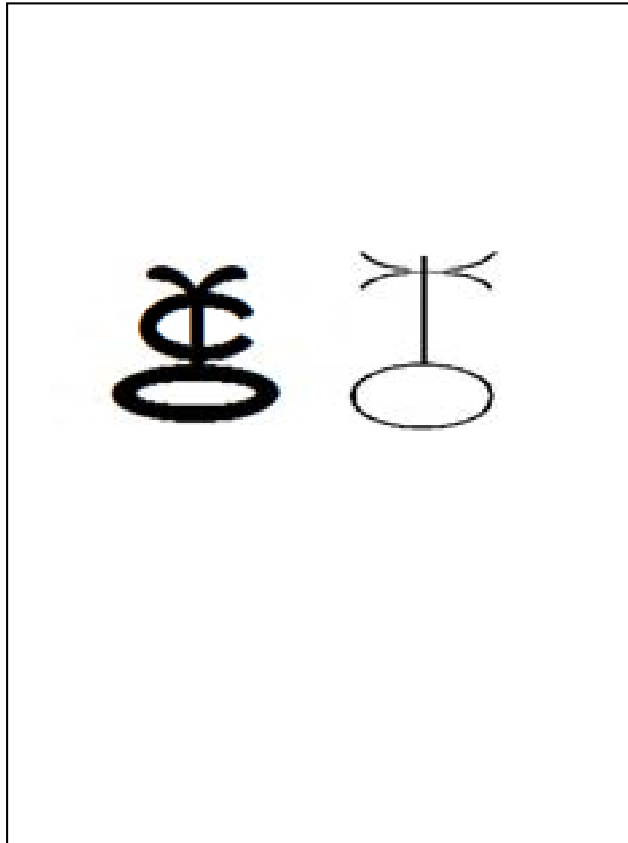


The names Hylonome and Cyllarus were also given to Centaurean bodies after being suggested to astronomers by astrologers. And, while they were descended from Ixion like so many other Centaurs, they stand out in mythology as having their two lives intertwined. So I always look at them together.

Cyllarus was known for his great beauty, perhaps the most beautiful of all the Centaur males. He could have had his pick of any of the Centaurs, but he fell in love Hylonome, herself described as perhaps the loveliest of all female Centaurs, and she for him. In fact they only had eyes for each other, and would roam the hills together, then go back and spend time together in the cave they shared. Like many others in the herd, they went to the Lapiths wedding, and when fighting broke out they fought together side by side. Someone through a javelin which struck Cyllarus, and he went down. Hylonome embraced him as he died and then, giving him a kiss, fell upon the spear that killed him and she herself then died.

Cyllarus was discovered when in Taurus, Hylonome in Libra. It doesn't surprise me that, with their love being the theme of the story, they would both be found in Venus-ruled signs.

Hylonome's orbit takes her from just beyond Uranus to out past Neptune, and takes 126 years. Cyllarus' 134 year orbit also goes almost to Uranus, but at its furthest it goes out past Neptune and Pluto.



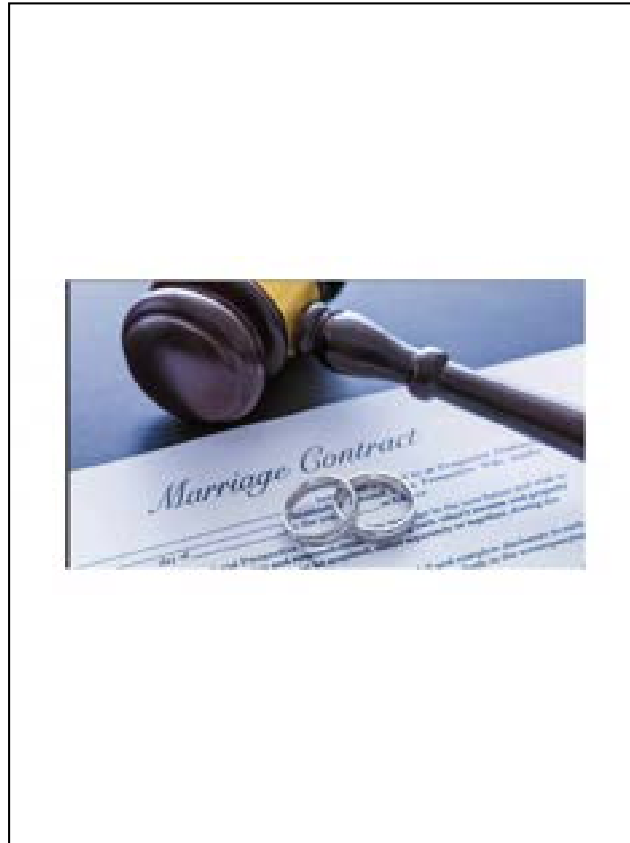
There are a few different suggested glyphs for these bodies, but the ones I like the best are the one on the left for Cyllarus, and the one on the right for Hylonome.

And their astrology?

Cyllarus shows a kind of pride in oneself, one's background, or race, or origin, which can blind one to the larger picture. There can be the negative of being self-important, self-centered, and opportunistic. There can thus be a blindspot keeping you see that others may be hurt by your attitude; or that others get hurt following your lead...because Cyllarus can give that sense of self that others feel the urge to follow.

Hylonome shows an exceptional need for acceptance, and it can show a feeling of unworthiness based on one's own merits. It can draw one to find value only by association with others. Where Hylonome lies, emotions can be strong, and the individual can draw feelings from others, such as sympathy or empathy. She can show a deep pain connected to the loss of the past, such as loss of innocence, and the longing to bring it back, even though not possible. This feeling of loss, and the grief connected with it, can bring about great pain, and can make it difficult to live in the present.

Because of their respective orbits, their interrelationships are rather unusual. The last times they were conjunct were five times in the 1300's, then squared 37 times from 1386-1748. They began a series of oppositions in 1931 and, by the time it is over in 2045, will have been exact 82 times.



Let's look at one of the things that has been happening since the two began in their opposition dance: the nature of marriage.

Prior to the beginning of the opposition cycle, marriages were pretty much considered sacred. But many changes, especially economic because of the Depression, saw the sacredness begin to crumble.

Many American couples eloped, as it was too expensive to get married. Marriages were delayed, as not many could afford to become married. As a side effect, divorce rates dropped, because people couldn't afford to live in separate households supported only by their own income, or pay for the divorce. However, there were high rates of separation. By 1940, one and a half million married women were not living with their husbands. Most Americans did not have sufficient means to marry. Even after the economy began to pick up, the institution of marriage continued on the path of change begun in the early 1930's. True, there were some increases in the number of marriages for awhilethere was a peak in the year before World War II, and immediately after the war, and another peak in the 1970's. But the ideas about marriage had changed. The declines in the marriage rate accompany the increases of people who never marry, as well as increases in the number of common-law households.....and yet the population continues to grow.

HIDALGO



While the first body to be classified as a Centaur was Chiron, there is another body that was discovered in 1920, long before Chiron, that has a unique status. It was looked upon as a rather unique asteroid for more than half a century, and, only recently, was reclassified as a Centaur. But the good news is that astrologers have been studying this body for quite some time, and know a lot about its nature. I started looking into it in 1980.

The Centaur is named Hidalgo, and no, it is not a Centaur's name. But this body was named after an actual person, and one who is often pictured riding a horse.

I've often thought about ancient times when a people who did not know about horses saw their first horse with ride in the distance. Would they have thought it was a strange creature, head of a man, body of a horse?



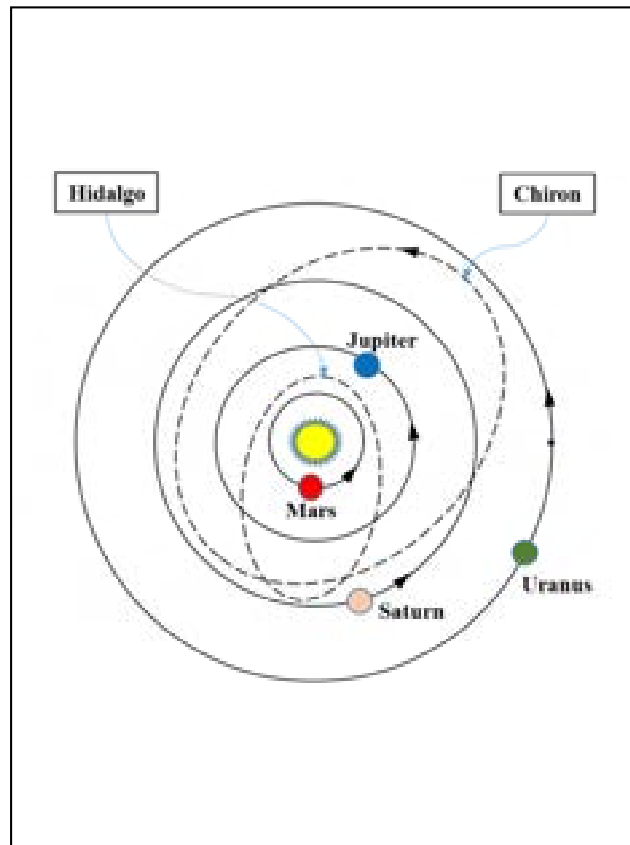
Hidalgo is a word in the Spanish language, thus its meaning is for modern people... a meaning that may not have been comprehensible to humankind before the Spanish language existed. Hidalgo also is the name of a man who became the subject of myths after his death. I will treat these two separately.

I. The word itself was originally a contraction: either hijo d'algo or hijo de algo being the root phrase. Its meaning was 'Son of something, or somewhat'. Through time, Hidalgo came to be a Spanish title, representing the bottom rank of nobility, the lowest you could be and still be allowed to use the prefix 'don'. But at least if you were Hidalgo, your father was still something important, and you were still 'son of something.' The term gradually evolved to mean one of gentle birth, but still separates one from the ordinary masses.

II. The man, Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla, was born in Mexico on May 8, 1753. He came to be called, simply, Hidalgo. In 1778 he became a priest, and worked to improve the conditions of the poor Indians, teaching them to cultivate vineyards and to make bricks. Gradually he became upset by the oppression of the Spanish Colonial Government, and in 1809 he joined a secret society dedicated to freeing Mexico from this oppression. On Sept. 16, 1810, carrying a banner, he proclaimed a crusade and was soon joined by thousands. His crusade captured many towns and looked like it might be a successful revolution. He was demanding the abolition of Indian Serfdom and of all caste distinctions.

But the tide turned. On Jan. 11, 1811 his army was routed, he was caught, and shot as a rebel.

The death became a spark to the revolution, which eventually led to Mexico's independence. He began to be regarded almost as a saint. Many miracles were attributed to him. And Sept. 16, the date he began his crusade, is now Mexican Independence Day.



It was discovered in the 16th degree of Aries on Oct. 31, 1920 and at the time had the most extreme orbit of any know body. (More so than Pluto or Chiron) When the astronomer first discovered it he actually thought he had found a comet.

Due to this eccentricity, Hidalgo remains in some signs longer than others. Now this in itself is not unique. Pluto stays in some signs up to 30 years, and in others as few as 12, while Chiron stays in Libra less than 2 years yet takes over 8 years to move through Aries.

But Hidalgo takes this to the extreme. In its 13-3/4 year cycle it goes almost to Mars at perihelion, and out past Saturn at aphelion. IT CROSSES BOTH JUPITER'S AND SATURN'S ORBIT! So, near aphelion it spends 26% of its orbit (over 3.67 years) in Sagittarius, and 24% (3.36 years) in Scorpio.

Imagine...50% of its orbit in just two signs! Half the people in the world have Hidalgo in either Scorpio or Sagittarius. But that's not all. It is in the sign Gemini for less time than in any other sign, only about 42 DAYS out of each 14 years! That is only about .8%, about 1 out of every 125 people, compared to about 33 out of 125 people who have it in Sagittarius.

So what does it all mean? Al H. Morrison observed that when Hidalgo is transiting through the faster signs, "Events, both personal and mundane, tend to take on a hectic, reckless pace and variety, particularly for those who have planets in the midst of the areas traversed by Hidalgo." Thus any planet you have in the sign of Gemini receives this 'hectic pace' for a brief while every fourteen years. This might be one of the reasons Gemini is such a nervous sign, always receiving Hidalgo at its swiftest.

As I have observed it, Hidalgo signifies a need to prove that one is just as good as one's parents were, and also just as good (or better) than one's siblings. There is a great deal of pride in this body as to where one came from, and that part of oneself that one has inherited from one's parents. It represents a strong need to defend oneself, to prove to others that one is in the right, to stand up for one's principles. There is also an urge to take risks, perhaps because there is the feeling that if one loses one does not lose much. Dr. Lee Lehman even goes as far as to say that Hidalgo represents Self-Assertion.

Hidalgo can lead one to act, knowing full well that one is defying possible consequences. An afflicted Hidalgo usually has much resentment, stemming from whatever house it occupies, and from what is ruled by the afflicted planet.

Check out this body in synastry. If Hidalgo in your chart contacts a planet in the chart of another, you can be sure that your own rights and your assertiveness are an issue in the relationship. The most difficult aspect for Hidalgo I have seen in synastry is in conjunction or hard aspect to another person's Neptune. Here, the Hidalgo person can not seem to assert himself well, or for very long, because the Neptune person is always disrupting his attempts, weakening his efforts, and in general dissipating his actions in this direction.



For all of the other centaurs there is scant mention, and in fact for most of them the only mention is what they were doing during the wedding with the Lapiths, or at the cave of Pholus.

These, then, are the Centaurs that are part of the wild herd. What do we do with them?

All of us have parts of ourselves that we may not be proud of. We have dark thoughts, self-centered urges...and often we aren't conscious of them much of the time, if at all. We are humans, but perhaps we can call these our animal nature. They may not be seen by ourselves, or others, as our main identity, but they do in their own way contribute to what makes us unique individuals.

These, then, are the members of the herd of wild centaurs.

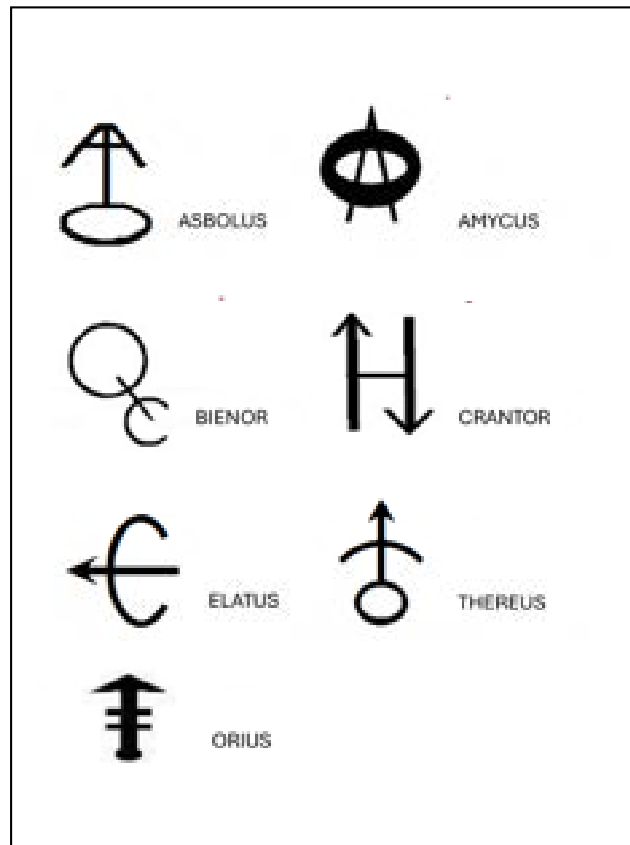
Think of an artist painting a portrait, starting with perhaps the framework of the facial bone structure, fleshing it out with muscles and skin; adding colour here, shading there, until we can clearly see a person emerging on the canvas.

If the artist is little talented, we soon see a person emerge. But if the artist is very talented, he or she doesn't stop there. He adds a bit of black here, a bit of red there....an observer might not see anything changing at first. But soon the portrait becomes so much more, the artist has given the portrait emotion

But if he is a Micheangelo he puts in other things around the person that tell a story about why the face has the emotions. Perhaps there is a partially open door behind the person...could what's in there be the reason for their smile? Or a letter on the stand next to them....could the sad look on their face be because they read unhappy news?

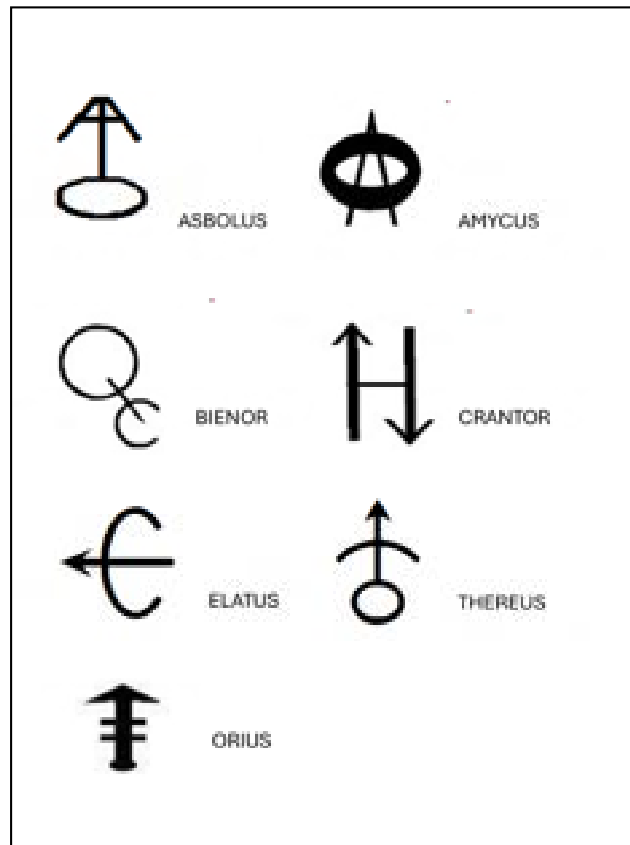
The artist/astrologer who adds the herd of centaurs to a chart is fleshing out the picture. They tell a detail here, or there, that truly gives you a more whole person. There may be a bit of blackness here, a bit of red there. Sometimes the astrologer might choose not to say anything here because some of these colors may be way too personal and the client might not want to know that someone even knows about them.

We won't spend much time on these other bodies, but I did want to at least mention them.



Asbolus was a centaur who was known for seeing visions of the future which came true. He foresaw the disastrous events at the wedding, and tried to persuade the centaurs from fighting, but in their drunken haze they would not listen. He left the wedding when he saw what was beginning to happen, and lived awhile longer. But his visions did not help him later, as he was one of the centaurs killed by Hercules at the cave of Pholus.

Amycus, overcome by the wine, grabbed a branched candlestick from the inner shrine and used it to smash the skull of one of the Lapiths. He met his end when another Lapith ripped a leg off a wooden table and with two mighty blows killed the beast.



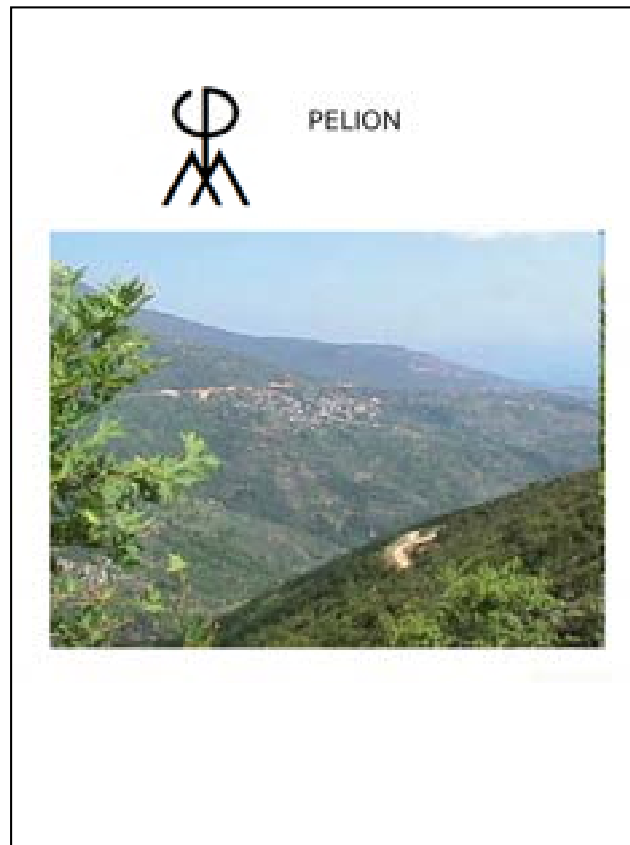
Bienor was known for his exceptional strength, even for a Centaur. He was doing a lot of damage, and seemed immune to jabs of the spears hitting him. A warrior named Theseus lept onto Bienor's back, grabbed his main, and killed him with several powerful blows of a club to his face.

I could not find a Centaur by the name Crantor. But there was a Lapith named Crantor who was brutally murdered by a centaur named Demoleon, and the warrior Peleus avenged the killing by attacking that centaur, and it was some battle, with both receiving painful wounds, but eventually Peleus ended the centaur's life. The question has been raised, was this body misnamed, should it have been called Demoleon?

Elatus, it appears, was not at the wedding. He was killed by one of Hercules' arrows at Pholus' cave. The story goes that the arrow first went through Elatus' arm, the poison quickly killing him. And it was the same area that then pierced Chiron's skin giving him the wound he could not heal. There is a definite connection between Elatus and Chiron. When Chiron was discovered, the Sabian symbol for its Taurus discovery degree is often described as a rainbow bridge linking the earthly with the celestial. Elatus' discovery degree was a couple degrees later in Taurus and the description is a cantilever bridge across a deep gorge.

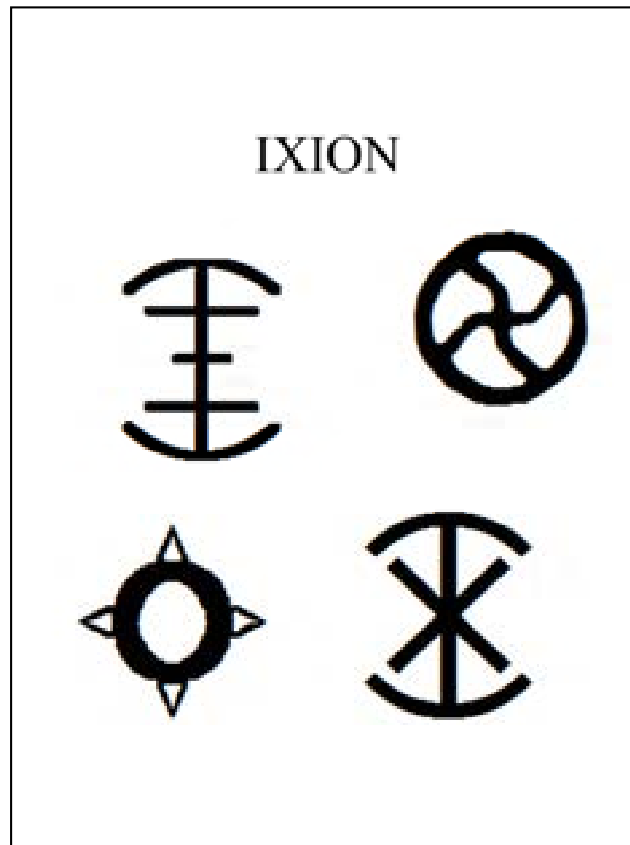
Thereus was huge, perhaps the largest most powerful of all the Centaurs. He was known for grabbing wild bears from the mountain slopes and carrying them, struggling, back to his cave where he would kill them for his dinner. Theseus, the same one who killed Bienor, was able to bring down and kill Thereus too with his club.

Orius is another Centaur that died at the cave of Pholus. I cannot seem to find any mythology about him, other than that he was one of the Centaurs killed there by Hercules. His name means "of the mountain". There was a minor mountain god in central Greece with a similar name, but I could not find any connection between them.



Pelion is the name given to another Centaurean body, but rather than being a Centaur's name, it was the name given to the mountain all the Centaurs called home. It was named after Peleus, a Greek king who was the father of Achilles (one of the heroes Chiron taught in his cave.) Pelion was the place where just about everything that happened involving centaurs, both good or bad, took place.

If anything, it says something about what connects all the centaurs, what they have in common, as it is where they established roots and made themselves at home.



There is one more body I would like to mention briefly, although it isn't a Centaur.

I've mentioned Ixion several times today. Well, a large body out past Pluto, that some say should be considered another Dwarf Planet, was given the name for this being.

Ixion is a large body out past Pluto that some say should be considered a dwarf planet.

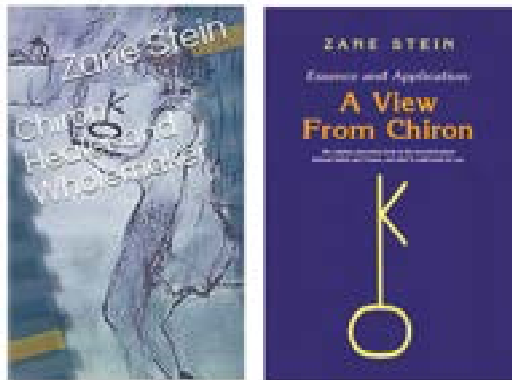
As you can see, there are quite a few glyphs being used for him, all in one way or another connecting with the wheel he would be tied to as punishment.

What's he mean? That's for another lecture.

Mr.Chiron@zanestein.com

https://zanestein.com/Chiron_a.htm

<https://zanestein.com/page6.htm>



To contact me, probably the best email address is Mr.Chiron@zanestein.com

If you'd like to explore my work on Chiron, Centaurs and other bodies, check out my Chiron and Friends website.

And if you'd like to purchase a copy of my newest book, Chiron – Healer and Wholemaker (or my first book, Essence and Application: A View from Chiron), you can see me personally, or checkout the order page on my website.

By the way, in Chiron, Healer and Wholemaker, I have included several articles I've written on different centaurs that were published in the Mountain Astrologer. The handout you should all have is a copy of the article on Chariklo.

The Centaurs

Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons
Coat of Arms

Chiron (left) / Apollo (right).



Battle between Lapiths and Centaurs
Francesco Solimena