Passion and Power: Exploring Pluto

CAROLE TAYLOR

UAC 2018

Pluto: Agostino Carracci
Tuesday 29 May 2018
11am, Chicago
“There were irises and hyacinths and a narcissus which Gaia grew as a snare for the girl with eyes like buds to please the God Who Receives So Many...”

_Homeric Hymn to Demeter_, transl. Jules Cashford
Percival Lowell
13 March 1855
7.45am
Boston, MA

 Pluto, ASC, ☐ ☐ ☐ partile ☉ ☕

by Agostino Carracci, 1592
Zeus, Hades & Poseidon

Ceiling fresco by Caravaggio (c.1597-1600)
Jupiter, Pluto and Neptune as allegorical representations of alchemy:

- Jupiter: sulphur and air
- Neptune: mercury and water
- Pluto: salt and earth.
“...the dark son and executor of the unseen mother.”

Liz Greene,
*The Astrology of Fate*

Hades scattering seeds in a field which Demeter has ploughed
Red-figured pelike, 430-420 BCE
“...to study soul, we must go deep, and when we go deep, soul becomes involved.” (p.25)

“To arrive at the basic structure of things we must go into their darkness.” (p.26)

James Hillman, *The Dream and the Underworld*
Marie Stopes
15 October 1880
4.10am
Edinburgh, Scotland

♀ in 9th unaspected except ⊗ ４
Carl Jung  
26 July 1875  
7.29pm  
Kesswil, Switzerland

Sigmund Freud  
6 May 1856  
6.30pm  
Freiberg, Czech Republic
Igor Stravinsky
17 June 1882, 12.00
Lomonosov, Russia

The Rite of Spring: 1913
“...the primeval is that which is most alive
– in fact, it alone is truly alive.”
Walter Otto, *Dionysus: Myth and Cult, 1965*

See also the painting ‘Dance’ by Matisse
(associated with Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*)

**Shiva:**
Destroyer & Transformer
Lord of the Dance

**Dionysos riding a panther**
Pella, Greece, 300-330 BCE
"The madness which is called Dionysus is no sickness, no debility in life, but a companion of life at its healthiest. It is the tumult which erupts from its innermost recesses when they mature and force their way to the surface. It is the madness Inherent in the womb of the mother. This attends all moments of creation, constantly changes ordered existence into chaos, and ushers in primal salvation and primal pain – and in both, the primal wildness of being."

Walter Otto – Dionysus: Myth & Cult
“...the masculine over the feminine, the principles of light, order and distance over emotional involvement, or what has, in short, been called the Apollonic over the Dionysian”.

“the fields of psychiatry and mythology...have been for the most part in collusion against the Dionysian, resulting in a repression, and thus a distortion, of all Dionysian phenomena so that they have come to be regarded as inferior, hysterical, effeminate, unbridled and dangerous.”

James Hillman – *The Myth of Analysis*
Cycles of Initiation and Return

Proserpine
(Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1874)
I. Departure

II. Initiation

III. Return
Howard Sasportas, *The Gods of Change*:

“People tend to be afraid of Pluto transits, and they have a right to be, for we are dealing here with the god of death, whose domain is the dark and shadowy Underworld.”

Liz Greene, *The Astrology of Fate*:

“All ‘fruits’ of a Pluto transit must be paid for through the rupturing of the psychic hymen which protects our innocence.”

Jason regurgitated by the **Colchean dragon** who keeps the Golden Fleece; Athena stands to the right.

Red-figured Etruscan cup (480-470 BC)
The journey down

“Trojan, Anchises' son, the descent of Avernus is easy. All night long, all day, the doors of Hades stand open. But to retrace the path, to come up to the sweet air of heaven, That is labour indeed.”

(Aeneid 6.126-129.)
“Between the two areas [conscious and unconscious] – and Freud has drawn maps – there is a threshold or “barrier” that prevents easy passage and even a forbidding “censor”. Repression is the concept psychology uses for describing the fact that a host of *eidola* or “images” are kept on the other side. What takes place in this other “mental province” gives our waking life anxiety.’

James Hillman, *The Dream and the Underworld*, p.17

~

“...the ground literally gave way beneath my feet and I plunged down into the dark depths.”

Charon and Psyche
John Rodham Spencer Stanhope, 1883
“Before thir eyes in sudden view appear
The secrets of the hoarie deep, a dark
Illimitable Ocean without bound,
Without dimension, where length, breadth, & higth,
And time and place are lost; where eldest Night
And Chaos, Ancestors of Nature, hold [ 895 ]
Eternal Anarchie amidst the noise
Of endless Wars, and by confusion stand.”

John Milton, Paradise Lost (Book 2, lines 890-897)
T. S. Eliot
26 September 1888, 7:45 am
St Louis, Missouri
T. S. Eliot

Inner wheel – natal chart

Outer wheel – transits
1 January 1922

‘What are the roots that clutch,
what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish?’

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,
And the dry stone no sound of water. Only
There is shadow under this red rock,
(Come in under the shadow of this red rock),
And I will show you something different from either
Your shadow at morning striding behind you
Or your shadow at evening rising to meet you;
I will show you fear in a handful of dust.

The Waste Land: 1. The Burial of the Dead
Proserpine
(Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1874)

Connecting with a fertile creative power

Hades and Demeter sowing seed

Connecting with a fertile creative power
“...but if you have tasted food, you must go back again beneath the secret places of the earth...”

Homer, *Hymn to Demeter*

Persephone and Hades
Frida Kahlo
6 July 1907, 8:30am
Coyoacan, Mexico City
Frida Kahlo

Inner wheel – natal chart

Outer wheel – transits September 1925

Akkadian cylindrical seal depicting Inanna and her attendant Ninshubur
Jacques Cousteau
11 June 1910
1.06pm
St André de Cubzac, France
Lewis Carroll
27 January 1832,
3:45 am
Daresbury, UK

Lewis Carroll
Inner wheel – natal chart
Outer wheel – transits
1 January 1865

Alice plays croquet
with a flamingo

Photo: By Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Public Domain,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=629700
Persephone and Hades

Persephone – ‘she who loves the darkness’.
Asklepios ~ Ophiuchus
the Serpent Bearer

‘Pharmakon’
Ariana Grande
26 June 1993
9.16pm
Boca Raton, FL

Study me then, you who shall lovers be
At the next world, that is, at the next spring;
For I am every dead thing,
In whom Love wrought new alchemy.

John Donne – A Nocturnall upon Saint Lucies day
Return
~

*The Return of Persephone*,
Frederic Leighton (1891)
The Mid Life Transits

3rd Jupiter return 35-36
2nd Saturn square (waxing) 36-37
2nd Nodal return 37
Pluto square Pluto Between mid-30s & early 40s
Uranus opposite Uranus 42
Neptune square Neptune 41-2
2nd Saturn opposition 44-45
4th Jupiter return 47
Chiron return 50
Age and happiness: The U-bend of life
Why, beyond middle age, people get happier as they get older

Inferno

Midway on our life's journey, I found myself
In dark woods, the right road lost. To tell
About those woods is hard--so tangled and rough
And savage that thinking of it now, I feel
The old fear stirring: death is hardly more bitter.
And yet, to treat the good I found there as well
I'll tell what I saw, though how I came to enter
I cannot well say, being so full of sleep...

Dante, *Divine Comedy: Inferno, Canto 1*
Sometimes with the bones of the black sticks left when the fire has gone out

someone has written something new in the ashes of your life.

You are not leaving. Even as the light fades quickly now, you are arriving.

David Whyte
Friedrich Nietzsche  
15 October 1844  
10am  
Lützen, Germany

“One must have chaos within oneself to give birth to a dancing star.”

“...the secret of realizing the greatest fruitfulness and the greatest enjoyment of existence is...to live dangerously!”
Friedrich Nietzsche
Natal
Progressions
Transits
1 January 1872
Carole Taylor
carole.taylor@astrology.org.uk

Join me for:
Faculty of Astrological Studies
Summer School
Exeter College, Oxford
17th-24th August 2018