



# DISCERNING MINDS

Premiere Metaphysical Quarterly For The Abstract Enthusiast

*SACRED SCIENCES \* ESOTERICISM \* ARCANA \* CREATIVE THOUGHT \* PHILOSOPHIC TRENDS*

VOLUME 5  SPRING 2018

*What's Your Perspective?*



# What's Your Perspective?

*Don't judge a book by its cover, rather, by what you uncover.*

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# MIND TEAM

## → TAKING AIM ←

Our Editorial and Managerial Teams are comprised of open minded people from different walks of life, professional backgrounds and divergent spiritual paths. Each team member brings to the table their own brand of expertise based upon educational accomplishment and practical life experience. They share their gifts and abilities as a team in order to present this E-Zine with the mindset of sharing information and uncovering truths.

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*The Human Condition* – Serious or humorous narratives, or prose about life, emotions and empathy based in life experiences, psychology of being, dream analysis, synchronicity.

*A Matter of Spirit* – Metaphysical, Higher Mind, Karma/Dharma, reincarnation, meditation, symbolic or religious/spiritual metaphoric accounts.

*Body Temple* – Alternative health, holistics, ancient and new healing, mind methods, auras.

*Phenomena Files* – Paranormal, extranormal, ultra-normal and unexplained experiences, Parapsychology, cryptids, UFOs, curses.

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*Creative Musings* – Original artwork, poetry, prose, fantasy tales, stories with morals or messages.

*Odd-vant Guard* – Atypical, curious, paradox, eccentric or uncanny chronicles and yarns.



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# The Human Condition

*“Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is.”*



**Section Managing Editor – Daria Novicki**

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Quote: Albert Camus

## ***Bed of Thorns***

Sarah V. Keene

*You passed the day suffering agony in your mind and the night has passed as if lying on a bed of thorns. – Sheikh Farid in Granth Sahib*

There is an old adage which says that “life is not a bed of roses.” Does that mean it is a bed of thorns?

Philosophically and psychologically thorns, have always been associated with the stinging emotions like a barb to the consciousness. Physically, thorns coming into contact with the body cause pain. Psychologically they can represent our personal grievances and perhaps mental miseries we have not yet expressed or worse, repressed. In a nutshell, thorns represent adversity in its purest form.

In reality, the sufferings of life cannot be eliminated and in some metaphysical camps, suffering is tied to needed growth. Attempts to eliminate all suffering in life has its own consequences such as isolation and loneliness, bitterness and despair. (Some sufferable situations are fixable and they should be fixed... they don't have to be a sentence or a penance.)

If we don our metaphysical rose colored glasses, we see that:

*Adversity is that great part of life which leads you towards the successful future. Adversity makes you stronger and enough capable to bear the entire crisis you face traveling through the different stages of life in order to make you stronger both mentally and physically. Hard times are like washing machines, they twist, turn and knock us around but in the end we come out cleaner, brighter and better than before. – Sakut Kumar<sup>1</sup>*

If we face our challenges and grasp life by the forelock perhaps thorns can take on another meaning for thorns are also symbols of protection. We can surround ourselves with spiritual thorns deterring external distractions as we complete our inner work. To do so is actually an act of non-action where through deep contemplation we can confront our inner thorns and see beyond them the intertwined wall they have created with a clear reflection of what is hidden in ourselves. We can clearly see the past and everything that took place to bring us where we are now. Then we can bless it and release it, let go of the past, reclaim our power and move on. We can avoid falling into lower forms of consciousness and inferior ways of thinking as we progress forward.

Continued ...

Continued ...

Maybe it has only been the Universe prodding us with thorns all along ...

*Life is thickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us. -  
Voltaire*

[1 http://www.speakingtree.in/blog/life-is-not-bed-of-roses](http://www.speakingtree.in/blog/life-is-not-bed-of-roses)



## *Relationships, Metaphysics and Magnetic Polarity - Do We 'Click'?*

Shari Moss

As an outsider looking in on others' relationships we sometimes think, "Now there's an unhealthy relationship!" Maybe, to you, it's passive-aggressive; maybe it's codependent; maybe one of the mates is abusive... whatever whoever defines as "unhealthy."

Driving to work each day consciously aware of the traffic yet subconsciously mind-drifting to who knows where, I have ... 'driving thoughts'. The "driving thought" du jour the other day was pondering the "healthy relationship" supposition. Somehow, in that thought, the concept of magnetic polarity came to mind. (I don't really know where these thoughts come from or how these connections get made. I like to believe they're channeled from my higher sub-consciousness from another dimension. Those who hear these thoughts do admit that they ARE fascinating and make for fun and lively discussions... but I digress!!)

Remember when you were a kid? You'd play with magnets and try to force magnets of the same polarity to 'click'? Try as you might, it wasn't going to happen. At some point, you even thought it would and you enjoyed the challenge and the determination it took to make them connect. However, the more you tried to make them stick together, the more the forces would repel. The more they repelled each other, the more determined you became to force them together the way you wanted them to be together – not the way that worked for them. Then you figured out that all you had to do was move one of them in another direction – and wham, they'd stick like glue. (Well, actually they'd stick like magnets!!).

It struck me that relationships can be likened to the magnetic polarity theory. And those that we call "unhealthy" could be compared to the repelling magnets... unless or until one moves in a more polaritically (a 'shari-word') correct direction. Now, if we attempt to transmute this concept from merely physics to metaphysics, and roll in the idea that like attracts like, and/or opposites attract – what do we get?

First we'll consider the concept of 'like attracts like'. In that framework, who is anyone to say that repelling magnets are unhealthy? For whom? And are they really "repelling" or are they merely exchanging or transferring energy fields? What if that is the exact perfect energy conduction for the situation at the time? Society would have us believe that in that energy field (the type of relationships listed above) that neither entity can be happy or fulfilled. Yet, if it is true that we attract what we need and that we are all on varying spiritual paths based on varying karmic circumstances; that we may be at varying echelons on our journeys– then we would conclude that each component of the relationship is exactly where it needs to be, getting exactly what it needs at that point in time.

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From a metaphysical perspective, all is perfectly balanced and healthy and the universe prevails and provides!! This is not to say that there are no unhealthy relationships, it's mainly to point out that people stay in these relationships because they're getting 'something' they need at the time from that relationship and it is part of their karmic 'play-out' – their 'synchronicity' – subconsciously sought in order to move further along their spiritual path.

If we are one of the repelling magnets, at what point do we realize that we are and/or change our direction to enmesh the energy fields instead of forcing them? Sadly, some never do. Interestingly and oftentimes to a point of non-comprehension, sometimes these relationships continue to function well if that's what they were meant to be... if the parties are playing out their karmic lives transmitting "messages" that each other needs to do so. For others, hopefully it's realized early on where either or both begin to use the tools available to metaphysically enhance the physics relationship to create an energy field that allows for and creates peace within themselves and relationships at large. This can mean that each magnet has to go find other magnets to play with. And the cycle begins again. Sometimes the pair of magnets work together to create a more polaritically correct energy field... and that's a good thing!!!

The concept of 'opposites attract'... In the context of magnetic polarity – where the magnets will now stick together – this is a much more socially acceptable and "healthy" scenario. If either or both components move individually or congruently within the energy field where the need to repel does not exist – the 'opposites attract' theory has been created and energy fields becomes enmeshed. A more comfortable situation for each entity and the need to repel is not there. The conjoined 'forces' mesh with ease. Presumably both entities in this relationship are balanced allowing for the continuance of this connection on all levels – emotional, spiritual, and physical (or what I call ESP!!). Metaphysically speaking it all ends up the same ... all "magnets" are exactly where they need to be, getting exactly what they need to be fulfilled, and all is perfectly balanced and healthy... and the universe, once again, prevails and provides!!



## *An Appearance of Truth*

Jonathan H. Corelli

“Things are not always as they seem; the first appearance deceives many.” – Phaedrus

“Over time, society has created a materialistic measuring scale for us to use when making decisions. This measuring scale has conditioned us to perceive that the more attractive a person, a cause, or thing appears, the more we should unquestionably rely upon it as being trustworthy, desirable, and true. In other words, we have been indoctrinated into believing that illusion should be accepted as Truth, and that Truth, which is seldom, if ever, presented to us by way of sparkle and glitter, should be ridiculed, discredited, and ignored.” – Joseph Panek

There are influences all around us. We are influenced by what we see and judge it via our enayim\* and the assumptions that it evokes. When people use a false appearance they use assumptions to their advantage in order to promote a fake image of some kind. Although they never speak the lie, the fact that they purposefully went through the trouble so that people would make assumptions in order to create a facade is what completes the lie. Ah yes!

Pretense at its best!

Let's consider some types and remember everyone is a hypocrite to some degree ...

### *Radiant Rager*

“Nothing is more deceitful than the appearance of humility. It is often only carelessness of opinion, and sometimes an indirect boast.” – Jane Austin

Sparkle, sparkle ... step into my parlor ...

*The Radiant Rager* shows up with aplomb in the metaphysical community – the sweet, loving epitome of goodness and virtue complete with impeccable credentials from a number of online organizations, brilliant smile, humble to a fault and a snake charmers skill. Gonna' take you higher and out of the box. Underneath there is a raging being who would just as easily remove your head as look at you. They fill our heads with junk and their own veins with ice. The old term *street angel, house devil* comes to mind as does Ted Bundy. Simply dastardly Virginia.

### *Jung's Johnny Jump Up*

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“... A kind of mask designed on the one hand to make a definite impression upon others, and on the other to conceal the true nature of the individual.” – Carl Jung

These are the maskers who get our greatest respect and admiration because they have us psychologically duped because they are *working for us*. They live to aggrandize themselves but the coat of many colors blinds us into thinking they are saving the world for today and tomorrow and FOREVER! The superb rhetoric is potent but useless and destructive. Hey, we all want to be heroes right? La politique fashionable. Blah, blah, blah – the loudest people are often the weakest people but who knew ?

### *Gewgaw of the Gods*

*"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." —1 Samuel 16:7*

But if it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck right? ... And he's coming to a town near you soon!

We won't get all "churchy" or "guru" here but the Gewgaw loves to twist teachings into anything else but their original intent. This one comes packaged in two different wrappers – either downplayed pseudo wisdom or show-time outrageousness. The look is the same – either a Gandhi wrap or a helium head hair coiffure with an expensive suit; and finger pointed up to the heavens or book of rapture tucked under the arm. What's not to trust here? Have some Kool-Aid. No worries it won't poison your mind. They'll show you black and white but they are standing over there in the grey area.

### *Dramapheliac*

"Inside every cynical person, there is a disappointed idealist." – George Carlin

And the Oscar goes to ...

Fascinating and captivating the Dramapheliac will drain you when you are not looking – problem is you can't help but look and listen. Amplifying worldliness, this denizen of the dark knows everything about anything and expresses it with flair and panache.

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They are also cynical and vitriolic and of course over-reactive but you'll be drawn with and loyal like lap dog because their rhetoric resounds with upliftment. What will you do after the ball Cinderella?

*There's a face that we hide till the nighttime appears,  
And what's hiding inside, behind all of our fears,  
Is our true self, locked inside the façade!*

*Jekyll and Hyde, the Musical*

*POST NOTES*

\*Enayim: For purposes of this post - eyes, ears, senses, past experiences

Excerpt:

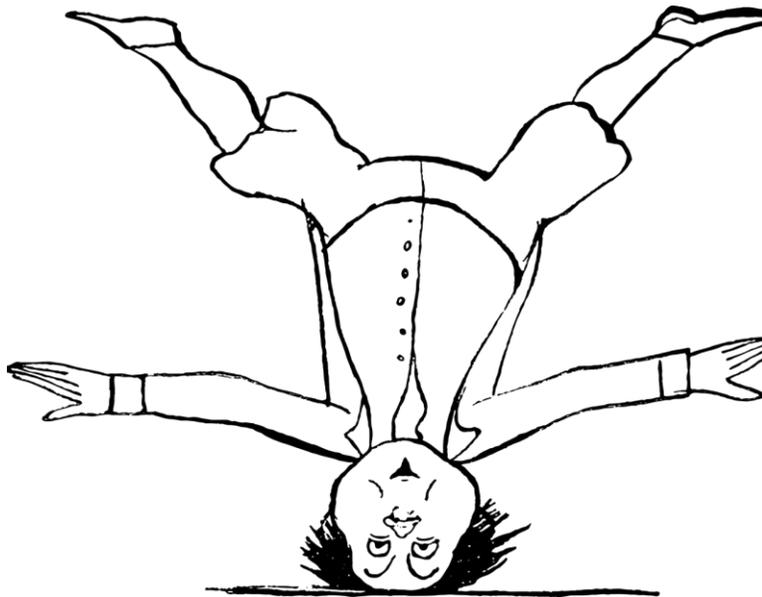
<http://www.aseekersthoughts.com>

Quotes:

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The Bible

Jekyll and Hyde, the Musical



## *Learning to See*

Rabbi Les Leichman

There is an old adage that states to see the world differently, you must look at it differently.

Every day, we all encounter situations in which we must make choices. Some are easily achieved but others may have a substantial impact on not only the singular life but also on the lives of people around us. Those are the decisions that require extra care and discernment in order to define the inclinations of our natures – good or evil. We will render either a good decision or a bad one and this is part of the learning curve of life.

If you are a procrastinator, decision making can seem to take forever causing opportunities to pass you by. With a little work it is possible to sharpen your perception which may help. It will require some time to accomplish but once the routine is established it may be much easier to make those important decisions. It will require compiling two lists.

- At the end of day take stock and review. Make a list of all the decisions you made during the day no matter how insignificant.
- Look over the list and on another list think about the manner in which you made these decisions. In some, you might feel you had no choice, perhaps because of job or family pressure for example. Note if you felt you had to respond to someone because of pressure stronger than yourself.
- Compare the lists and consider the longer list and question yourself as to why that is. Next ask yourself if what you have compiled is representative of your life experience.
  1. Did your choices reflect any need to control or judge?
  2. Did any of your choices express love or desire to show compassion?
  3. Did you notice inability to make judgments or express your own power?
  4. Did you find yourself unable to reach out to others?
  5. Did your choices reflect expediency to get something done or an ego need?
  6. Did you feel you were directed or compelled by a Higher Power?
- Now consider a future decision you will need to make. Write down all the options you think are available. Decide which options which represent the strongest and weakest traits within you. Did this bring up the possibility of other choices? Being honest, look at your motivation regarding all of this. Is your nature regarding it good or evil?

Remember – *If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got.* This quote has been attributed to Anthony Robbins, Albert Einstein, Henry Ford and Mark Twain.) Each made a 'decision' to use it.

## *Soulless Eyes*

By Mahaji

How much do you trust your intuition when faced with new people and situations? I am not referring to empathic abilities since those are generally clouded by one's emotional filter and past conditioning. I'm talking about that good old gut feeling you get immediately upon first contact.

I have always been open to the Universe when it came to meeting new people, either by my own actions or just by what has come my way externally. You never stop meeting new people until you leave the planet so why not have some fun with it?! That said, Facebook seems to be an avenue for an influx of new people generally via the "mutual friends" option which enables adding someone new. I am not saying anyone should run around with reckless abandon carelessly accepting what comes one's way. Discernment is a good tool but what happens when you ignore your "gut" and find yourself with someone new to your list that doesn't feel quite ... well ... real?

Such was the case for me recently. I accepted an acquaintance with someone who was connected to other newbies I had just connected with who were pretty stellar by all accounts but, right from the get go, something seemed off about this particular person. When I looked at their photo/avatar I was immediately turned off ... couldn't put my finger on it but turned off all the same. Within 24 hours of accepting the "friendship" I was bombarded with requests to "LIKE" this person's voluminous amount of various 'pages' touting her metaphysical expertise. While this included a few areas I have little respect for, no big deal, right? Everyone has the right to make a buck. I was reluctant to check off "like" but did so telling myself it was an act of charity.

As time went on more and more info about this person came to light, none of it positive by my personal standards. I took the time to watch a few videos – an interview and one or two directional pieces made by this "metaphysician." I was neither impressed with the instructive videos and was bored with the "I, I, I" interview. Do I think there is anything wrong with self-promotion? No, but this did tend to wax rather nauseating. I also began to observe certain behaviors on another website that clearly displayed ulterior motives and a strong need for power and importance. I enjoy self-confident people as a whole but this individual was fast moving towards *monster* and was and is unfortunately being enabled to do it.

'Well', I said to myself, 'To each his/her own ... good luck and let me know how that ends up working for you ...'

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Try as I may to avoid any further contact of any type which included, eliminating the Facebook 'friendship' and cancelling all my likes, this person kept popping up in my face regardless of these attempts ... so much for closing karmic doors when a few windows managed to stay open. It was time for further clearing so I contacted two close friends who know me better than anyone on the planet and who have never refrained from kicking me in my celestial buttocks. I asked them to help me both discern and perhaps bring validation as to why I simply had such an aversion to this person. Here is what was revealed:

Friend 1: "This woman represents everything you dislike about metaphysics, her phony demeanor, power tripping and attempts to social climb. Bottom line – you didn't pay attention to your personal meter of what is accepted and what is fraud."

Okay, bad on me. I hadn't paid attention. It's never too late and at least I had now shut the doors and would finish sealing the windows.

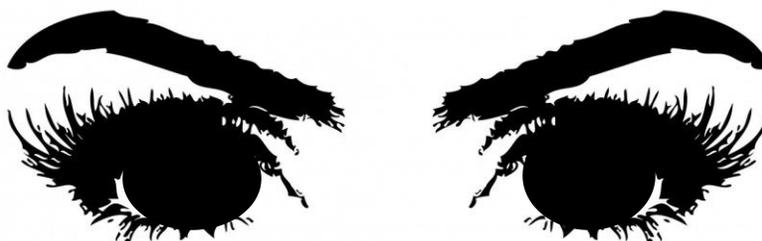
Friend 2 said four words.

Friend 2: "She has soulless eyes."

That stopped me dead in my tracks as I realized that it was indeed her eyes that bothered me right from day one.

Side note observation: With that last statement this post hit 666 words.

My advice – Your initial impression (mental) may be wrong at times BUT always pay attention to your initial gut response. It is never wrong.





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**Sarah V. Keene** (*Bed of Thorns pg. 2*)

Sarah is a certified massage therapist focused on bodyworks technology which combines Eastern and Western massage therapies. She specializes in prenatal massage and finds working with mothers-to-be extremely rewarding. Sarah lives in upper NY but is currently visiting relatives in Scotland. She enjoys writing about spiritual topics and composing poetry from time to time.

**Shari Moss** (*Relationships, Metaphysics and Magnetic Polarity - Do We 'Click'? pg.4*)

Shari, a Certified Marital/Family/Couples Therapist and previous owner of a Metaphysical Shoppe aptly named Synchronicity. She left Corporate America after 23 years to pursue her life's purpose and dreams - becoming an author and singer / songwriter whose works and verse aim to share what she deeply believes to be the menu for creating, maintaining, and savoring relationships filled with emotional, spiritual, and physical connection.

**Jonathan H. Corelli** (*An Appearance of Truth pg. 6*)

Jonathan lives in New York and in Montana during the summer months. He is a freelance writer and part time comedian who loves to travel as much as possible (have pen, will travel!). He likes to say, "Writing is not perfection unless it has a humor injection" so even the most serious of topics are infused with a dose of the literary giggles. According to Jonathan it all makes "perfect sense in every sense of the term sense."

**Rabbi Les Leichman** (*Learning to See, pg. 9*)

Rabbi Les calls himself the traveling rabbi since he is on 'the never-ending lecture' circuit. As a respected moral voice his focus is on troubled youth and rehab programs. He has extensively traveled in the Middle East spending much time in Jerusalem. Rabbi Les is diverse in his philosophy and teachings having also been a student of Sufism and Tibetan Buddhism.

**Mahaji** (*Soulless Eyes pg. 10*)

Mahaji, "the Universal Mother" prefers to remain anonymous. She believes her article says it all and that it is the message that is most important. You can visit Mahaji on <https://lightforcenetwork.com/>



# *A Matter Of Spirit*

*All within my Mind's Eye ...*

**Section Managing Editor – John “Salaam” Solis**

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## *A Righteous Imagination*

Aaron Feathersmith

In the realm of spirituality, the imagination has an important role. At the onset we think of imagination in terms of the basic human faculty – creative expression which is the forming of images or concepts without the aid of the senses that are grounded in reality. The imagination is spontaneous pulling us into the vortex of *what could be* ... imagine that.

The term righteous is associated with action according to Divine Law and is tied to both Dharma and theological concepts such as religion. Yet it is not as stringent or dogmatic as you might imagine. It pulls one onto the plane of Spirit – a place of virtue within the inner self.

What then does that make *Righteous Imagination*?

Simply put, it is a download of Divine possibilities that can be used for personal enrichment. It is a Soul matter and while that may sound like the metaphysical jargon du jour, it breaks every boundary of mundane thought and reality grip. Bearing in mind that human intelligence is both conceptual and intuitive let's consider the following.

In these contemporary times, basic imagination is often blotted out by reason which always requires empirical evidence because only logical rationalism can be TRUTH. The argument then becomes how can Divine inspiration which is the root of Righteous Imagination not be TRUTH? AND the TRUTH according to who or what?

Some students of spiritual concepts and mores who have a deeper understanding of how all was created call a *Righteous Imagination*, "Godspeak." If we look at creation, basically the very first thing God (or if you prefer Higher Power) did was speak. He didn't create anything without speaking. He gave the commands and set the order for all manner of things. This was and is the command of sound.

"Let there be light" was the first command.

The light or illumination was to carry the sound or the word to the entire universe like a giant current. Many forms of artwork will show a glowing lightbulb above someone's head as representative of an inspiring idea or an answer to a problem.

The brain has been lit up to receive the inspiration or words that form the new input that is generating from the inner plane of spirit which is part of the Divine.

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It is direct experiential recognition that goes beyond human reasoning – the higher perspective and the connection to evolution.

The employment of *Righteous Imagination* is not just messaging but an initiation.

It begins with an increase of self-sensitivity and self-love – a surrendering to the Divine I Am of self. One might begin to become more aware and attuned to nature and the creative facets of others which stirs the pot of potentials. This has nothing to do with empathic surges which often pull in negativity along with other impressions but rather a knowledge of the creativity of God in all people, places and things. The limits of perception become lifted.

You will find yourself eliminating all negativity surrounding you particularly any “I can’t” attitudes. You will begin to come up with innovative life solutions you have never thought of in the past. Old conditioning patterns will begin to fall away.

You will be able to visualize future solutions and solutions to current uncomfortable life experiences. Some of these may seem quite novel but they will work when put into practice. You have grown into a confident trust of the unknown. Nothing will seem insurmountable – because in reality, it isn’t.

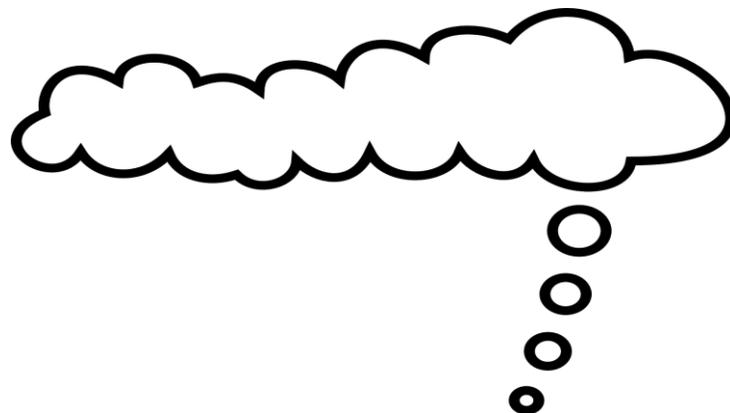
“Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere.” – Albert Einstein

*Righteous Imagination* is a lamp set before your feet.

Let it be lit.

Listen and Grow.

Imagine that.



## *Ego – Easing Good Out or Exercising Good Outwardly?*

Rev. Micah Allard

In many metaphysical circles it is popular to bash the ego. The mantra can be heard loud and clear: “destroy the ego, “crucify the ego” or even better “transcend the ego.” Truth be known no one can do any of those things. The ego is an important part of our very being.

A wise person once said that by Divine design we are actually born without an ego, rather we acquire it as part of the social skills we learn and we grow and expand in consciousness. So what is a problem? Simple. As we are growing and learning we develop varying degrees of healthy and unhealthy ego. This development is dependent upon life experiences. Positive experiences support a healthy ego and negative experiences and traumas contribute to an unhealthy ego.

### Easing Good Out: Core Belief of Fear

The unhealthy ego develops when we don't get what we need. We are hurt, defensive, and perhaps even reactive in a dysfunctional manner so a compensation pattern ensues because of fear. If an individual grows into adulthood without a chance to heal the hurts the ego can become inflated and end up producing a know-it-all who is unbearable. The unhealthy ego is rooted in fear and it is self-serving and caught in a continual self-feeding loop of toxic thought and anxiety to keep up the front.

The unhealthy ego is a slippery eel. It won't face reality, hates challenges, is judgmental and avoids responsibility. It refuses to demonstrate understanding or compassion towards others and it will never apologize. There are often overwhelming emotions but those are covered by an air of superiority and cleverly fashioned excuses. It is keen to engage in confrontation and competition with others where things often get ‘personal.’

### Exercising Good Outward: Core Belief of Love

Conversely the healthy ego develops from a solid sense of self that was hewn from an environment of love and support. It has reasonable boundaries and thinks in terms of positive possibilities. The healthy ego understands different perspectives and does not fear varying opinions and does not judge others. It accepts responsibility and carries on with integrity, cooperation and flexibility.

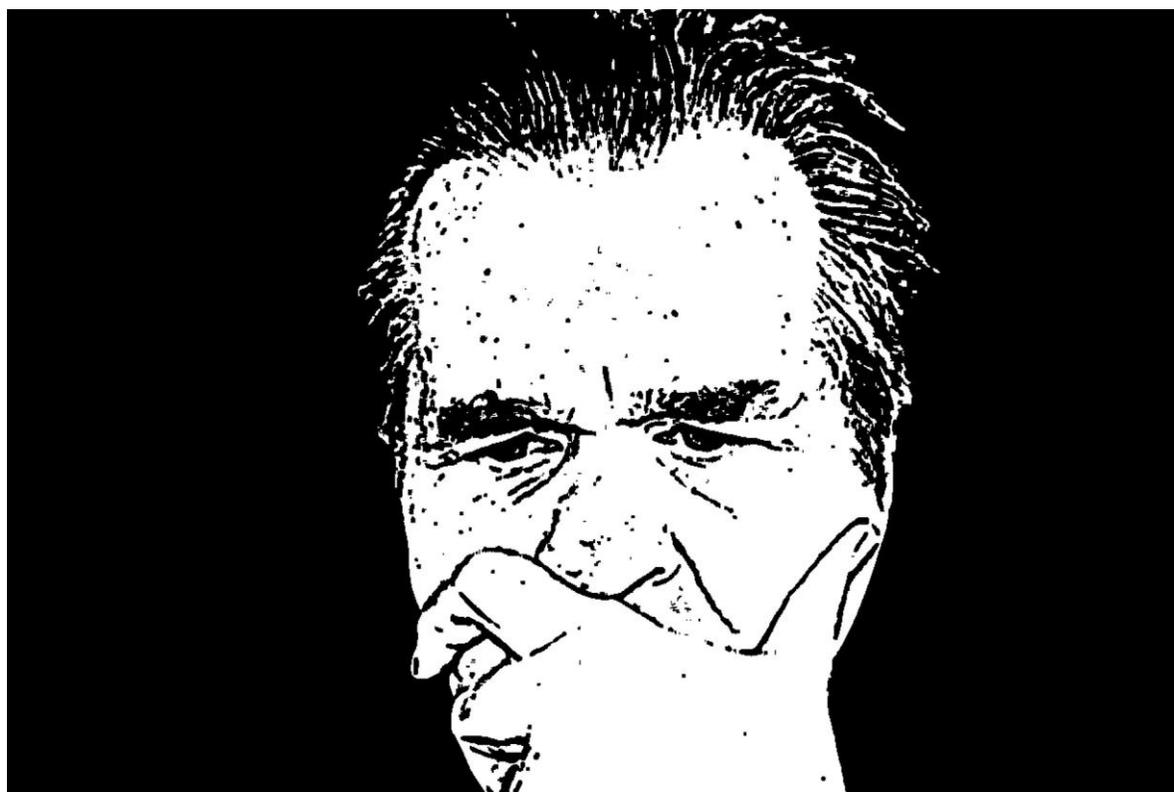
The healthy ego feels worthy and deserving of the best life has to offer and therefore attracts it. Above all it is accepting of all things – even things that cannot be changed.

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No one has a perfect ego. All individuals exhibit traits from both lists. Some traits more so than others. Metaphysicians are fond of using the terms lower and higher ego and often attach a long and complicated explanation to those terms so much is lost in translation. The real answer is not complicated. It is merely about individual effort to allow love to overcome fear and working on changing recognized and acknowledged subconscious patterns. It is growth all of us are intended to achieve.

Your ego does, after all, want you to be happy.





## *Choices and True Motivations*

Matt Sharpe

Often we go through a day where we discover a need to exercise our creativity to make a choice toward a goal we have or to bring something into our lives that we desire. Among the things to be considered, examined and chosen from are our motivation for pursuing the choice, and whether or not it is one that is worthy of our time and effort, and whether or not the true motive is one that can be expected to bring a positive return. The motive is a thing that can show clearly what ought to be expected, and the clearer and more honest the motive, the more likely the benefit. But when a person goes through trying to attain whichever aim or goal, often numerous situations arise that can throw the goal off of course or misdirect the attention into becoming ensnared in something else that appears to be completely unrelated to the original intent.

Is this the fault of some entity that seeks to throw us away from attaining a goal such as the Christian Devil, or is it the fault of the individual ego and the sub conscious mind? Are those two options the only possibilities or are there others that exist? There are several answers to these questions, and which apply can be difficult to determine, but it is hardly impossible to accomplish it if one has the proper tools for the job. Each of these causes exist and can possibly be involved, but the way that they are understood and the purpose each serves can be very different, depending on where they are viewed from, and the end results of each can be completely different and bring differing results.

The negative pole, called by various names depending on the particular religious view used can certainly be very much involved in the individual experiences of an individual's life. Satan, Iblis, Ahriman, YHWH, Kal Niranjana are all names for the dual god, the negative pole, the ruler of the lower planes, and while it is regardless as evil much of the time, it is worth keeping in mind that that is only half of the truth. He is also your teacher, your drill sergeant, and the individual whose very job it is to test you repeatedly and almost endlessly until you realize all of the different masks and faces that he can wear and learn how to recognize him regardless of how he presents a lesson to you. The negative entities that are created by him and work for him all do the same job. It is worth knowing so that a person can recognize the whole of this duality, because there is no other way to be able to get beyond it.

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Another of the causes of these problems is indeed the ego, the lower self, the mind and emotions. The Universal Mind is another name often given to the Kal, but the reality is that it also exists in every mind that exists, making that a part of you and I, and one that must be dealt with. This ego is always at the heart of the will that has a desire that it wants to attain, so that makes it very familiar and recognizable which can make us blind to the things it can do to sabotage our efforts in the spiritual sense. Knowing the true motivation behind the seeking of a goal is of the greatest import to an individual for this reason, it helps one to recognize if the desire is wholesome and good, and therefore honorable, or if it is directly self-serving, and possibly at the cost of another which obviously brings a karmic debt with it. The quality of detachment, and the humility to surrender the will unto the Divine Will become very important in this.

The individual will not always know the fullness of a thing, no matter how hard one tries to. Total awareness is not quite that easy to come by, and no one ever comes by it easily or quickly. Great patience, persistence, and effort with an ability to focus are required to get far through the various stumbling blocks that are put in every individual's way on any path to God. Be it Eckankar, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Tao, or any other, just to name a slight few. These same issues present themselves to everyone regardless of the way they have chosen for themselves, and it is simply a part of approaching the Godhead. This is why it is worthy to know why things happen and why they happen that way, as well as how to be able to inspect the motivations of the self so as to be able to determine when something needs to be changed to allow the individual to progress moving forward.

Learning to see the big picture as it exists beyond one's own desires is required, and to do this effectively, one must be able to honestly know their own true motivations, as those will demonstrate whether or not the goal is a worthy one, as well as whether or not the method being used is a good one that will not place more stumbling blocks on one's path. The relation between choices and what they bring the individual are always worth having a closer look at. This brings to mind the story of an individual from history and the choice made when he met an ECK Master. Paul Twitchell told this story in the Spiritual Notebook, pg. 216. He tells the story of the Living ECK Master of the time, a Hindu named Vaita Danu. Alexander the Great, after conquering the lands east of the Indus River in 326 B.C. and before going further east, he settled the men into camp to rest. It was then that Vaita Danu appeared before him with a sack of water. "Drink this, Alexander," he said, "and all life will be yours."

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The ECK was testing Alexander, for if he were to drink of the water offered him, this famed conqueror would be released from his insatiable desire for conquest. His Spiritual Eye would have been opened, giving him the awareness of the immortality of Soul. Instead, he hesitated, thinking the offer was a deception of some nature. In that moment of hesitation, one of his officers sliced the water bag with his sword, thinking it contained poison.

As the water spilled upon the ground, Vaita Danu said, "You have been tested and found wanting Sire. You shall die early in life, unhappy that no more worlds are yours for conquering. You shall become a wanderer through life, in birth after birth, until you find the one who will take you to the SUGMAD." He disappeared into thin air just as the officer poised to strike him with the sword.

Choices made bring the effects they create, so, thinking them through is just one way of lessening the chance of making an error that proves to be costly. Each choice the individual makes has the potential to being a positive effect, or a negative one to the one who made it. Which it will be depends on the choice itself, and the motivation that caused the individual to make it. Often the various circumstances that can appear at such a time might appear to be completely unrelated to that original goal that one was trying to find. Often the things that suddenly appear "out of the blue" appear unrelated, but due diligence must be spent in the investigation to find out if that is truly the case, otherwise the individual stands a good chance of blundering into further problems that must be solved along the way before it can become a thing even worse in nature. This is where things can go one of two ways, depending on the course taken. The choice is between following one's own mind, opinions and ego, or surrendering it to the SUGMAD and asking for help and guidance through it. Along with this surrender, detachment, patience and balance are qualities that can aid overall while awaiting the situation to work out according to SUGMAD'S will.

Doing things with this method is a way of fulfilling a phrase that originated within Christianity, but is one that Eckankar also uses, "They will not mine be done Lord." This phrase is from Anne Catherine Emmerich's visions as given in the book *The Dolourous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, According To the Meditations Of Anne Catherine Emmerich*, which is said to have been written by her, but over the decades many have come to suspect that the book's editor, the poet Clemens Brentano actually wrote much of it before putting it into written form as a book. That one line from the book serves as a good reminder of both surrender and humility and is the reason the phrase gets so much use to this very day.

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When one makes choices from the lesser point of view, things may not appear to be too bad and there may not be many problems or issues apparent at first, but things can and will change and one might find themselves in a situation they hadn't expected and trouble can start, even if the person is able to deal with it in a balanced and efficient way. Being that the view of the lower-self had control at the time the choice was made, in a majority of cases it will not bring a happy ending. Each time this happens the difficulty must be dealt with and the person must continue going forward despite the challenges that present themselves. The surrender of affairs to Divine Will is a thing that can clear away impediments and one that also can open new doors of opportunity where none had been perceived before, and doing things in this way tends to allow them to work out in such a way that the perfection of the way everything comes together is of such a degree that one's will could never have planned it to work so smoothly.

When that happens and the individual is able to recognize that fact, it is a true blessing as well as a miracle, a slice of Heaven on earth. This method will never make everything easy, nor will it remove all of the hardships and challenges, but it will provide the necessary guidance that allows everything to be worked out in the best way for all involved while also reaching the intended goal, sometimes with added benefits that could never have been foreseen earlier on. That is the quality that makes a miracle of things, allowing us to see that by surrendering the goal to the Higher Will, everything is taken care of in the best way leaving no loose ends. Making this choice is also a way of surrendering the ego's control and submitting it to God, who can see all things and cause each thing to be taken care of in the manner most suited for it, and bringing such nicely balanced results that an individual could never see well enough to take care of so effectively.

This works for anyone regardless of their chosen religion. One need not be an ECKist to enjoy these things nor to become aware of the various things that will interfere and the ways to take care of the entirety leaving nothing to chance. The discernment required to enable a person the ability to follow their choices forward into the future that shows each potential outcome does take a bit of effort and must be seriously worked at but the end result of the effort is completely worthwhile, although that may not necessarily be easily seen at first. The expansion of awareness brings all things into their proper place, where they can be recognized and used in whichever way is needed, but always with the willingness to surrender all the facets of the goal to the Divine.

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Giving up these attachments to a goal and surrendering it to God also allows trust in God to develop, with the knowingness that all of it will work out for the best, which enables the individual the ability to relax without worrying over every detail. Not everyone can be a prophet, so many need to find another means of dealing with the potentialities they face on a daily basis, and doing that without worry can be of great benefit. Being mindful of the various factors and motivations that can go into each choice becomes almost a necessity. Considering every possible option as well as every possible outcome, including the least likely, proves to be a thing that can often work in one's favor as they attempt to look ahead and weed out the difficulties that are found.

This is why one's ability to discern between true and false motives is an extremely important quality that can save both time and effort in the long run. One must keep the attention on what is motivating them in whichever way. That is the best way to remain in some degree of control over one's destiny by knowing every aspect of the things that caused them to make specific choices and the many reasons behind them. Sometimes it is easy to literally fool ourselves into acting on a lesser desire that has no consideration for what is good or bad for anyone else that might become involved at a later point. From that the others can then be involved with the effects of our original choice and also be influenced into making other choices. In this way a ballooning effect can spread, all from our original choice, and when this occurs it is we alone that must bear the responsibility for have created it. Enter instant karma! Most of the things that we think, say and do have a much wider range of effect than we realize, so it is best to bear that in mind and to be more responsible. Acting with disregard for this potential range of effects must be considered extremely selfish and short sighted.

For this reason a degree of brute honesty must be used regarding our own self-examination of our motives for choosing a thing. Usually the discernment of the differences between positive and negative choices for both positive and negative reasons comes only through having the experience of it along with the karmic effect coming to collect on that debt. This happens numerous times before it can be learned from in the fullest extent, and those lessons are never easy or pleasant. That is what makes them stick and be remembered for an entire life. That is how true spiritual learning happens and it is what makes possible the choosing of other options the next time a comparative choice needs to be made. Doing this and going through the entire cycle multiple times is absolutely required, and the harder it is to go through, the more the effects of the lesson cause one to choose another way in the future.

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That happening is an example of learning and recognizing the lesson or group of lessons, and then actively going forward with habits changed for the better and knowing full well how badly a decision can backfire, causing wisdom to make an appearance as the individual chooses differently. The ECK tends to keep one on their toes this way, and from having to deal with that often, one learns to look more fully into things they consider doing, and to the deepest extent possible for them at any given time.

Obviously having such a thing happen repeatedly makes the ability to discern between two things that appear to be very similar important and of the greatest value, as is the ability to continually be focused on learning something new from each and every situation that happens. Learning is one thing that no one ever outgrows. Even the ECK Masters continue to grow and learn beyond the state of consciousness they had when they attained Mastership. We might consider them to be somewhere near the "end of the road," so to speak, but the truth is that that road has no end. It unfolds continuously because there is always another thing to learn for everyone. This fact alone ought to give anyone tremendous humility, and anyone who does not get any from it, is missing out on perhaps one of the most subtle spiritual lessons, that there is always a plus factor involved. It makes no difference which religion or spiritual path anyone is in or on, this one applies to all.

While I have been speaking primarily from the state of an ECKist, Eckankar is far from the only subject contained in this. Every path is included in this and the subject is applicable to everyone, although some paths might use a different terminology to refer to these same ideas and to express them. One must get used to always thinking from the widest point of view possible and to also use the widest interpretations, accounting for every possibility from the start, and constantly allowing for each new interpretation that presents itself to be considered and potentially included. Nothing less than this will do least one find themselves dealt short unexpectedly (by themselves). In this way it is less likely that one be surprised by the new and unforeseen. The cutting edge must always be kept at its sharpest, and one must remain willing to change constantly so as to remain in the most updated and current state, at all times. Change is constant, and so must the attention be constantly vigilant, ready, and willing to adapt to the slightest nuance of change, as it occurs.

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## *How Closely Connected Are We?*

Connie Collett

How closely connected are we? Does how we feel, what we think, what we say have any effect on others around us? Sometimes it is easier to just do what we want and what feels good, with no thought or consideration for the repercussions that follow. Do you wonder sometimes if the proverbial pebble in a pond applies to your life?

I always question... is global warming real or just some made up who-ha that some grassroots organization may have dreamed up. I wonder how much my energy can affect others and the environment around me. If I am angry do others get angry too? If I am happy and laughing does that to affect the space, people, plants and animals around me?

One night a long time ago while driving home from work I was listening to a preacher on a local Christian radio station. He said something that really got my attention. He said, "... you cannot sin in a vacuum." You know you can hear or read the same thing over and over and just not get it, and then one day the light goes on. Or so you think.

Lately I have been contemplating whether or not everything has a soul. You know sometimes as children we are taught that yes people do go to heaven. Then when a beloved pet dies and we asked did he or she go to heaven the answers are a little vague. I seem to remember a verse somewhere in the Bible, which talks about every knee shall bow, there is a song that says all the trees and the rock shall praise the Lord. So it seems logical to me that yes everything and I do mean everything has a soul. Animals have knees and somewhere sometime the person that wrote the song must have had knowledge of trees and rocks praising and worshipping as well.

Well let me tell you a little story that has solidified my belief that yes we are all very, very connected and that everything does have a soul.

My neighbor has been caring for her aging and sickly father for several months now, along with a dog that is quiet precocious. About 3 or 4 weeks ago the dog had to become an outside dog. The reasons I am not sure of, but the result I am. He became the neighborhood barker. This barking was incessant and annoyed my husband to no end.

Unfortunately or fortunately (depending on how you view things) the gentleman next door died or transitioned as I would prefer to think of it. When I got home and went next door to offer my condolences.

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I knew immediately that the only thing that would be of any help at that moment would be to go home and pray and send them as much loving, protective light as I could. It was a lovely early spring night. The moon was full and the air cool. I sat with candles lit my heart aching with sadness for the family next door. As I meditated it suddenly dawned on me that the dog was no longer barking, but he was whimpering and crying while on occasion making mournful groaning sounds that tore at my heart. He knew that his master had gone on without him.

An hour or so went by and the funeral home finally arrived to pick up the deceased. Having lost a parent myself I know the wrenching pain that my neighbors were feeling. Even as I write this today my head begins to ache. I hear the clatter of metal against rock next door and see the men come out the front door with the gurney. The barker next door is crying inconsolably. Then something happens that I would never have expected. All the dogs in the vicinity started to howl with him. They continued their chorus of grief until the hearse is out of site. Then it becomes so very quiet, only the occasional whimper and soulful moans of the grieving pet remain.

So, if we are not all connected how did the dogs, forget me, seem to grieve with my neighbors and their dog? How could they have known that the man had transitioned? I got a “phone” call; I don’t think the dogs have cell phones! So you tell me are we all connected by some invisible connection. By some web of energy so intricate and strong that even the animals are tuned in to it. (I believe that the animals spoke at a soul level.) If that could be true then I purpose to you that we can’t “sin in a vacuum” or for that matter do anything else that doesn’t trickle down, spiral out and inevitably touch everything and everybody on this great, yet small, planet we call Mother Earth.

Be good to yourself, others and Mother Earth! I send you Peace and Love.

HEY! Are you talking to your plants?



## ***Enthusiasm***

Jurgens Pieterse

A mystic has the unique gift of seeing the divine in the most mundane. This focused vision of the less obvious gives the mystic an amazing influx of energy and will to act. Our human nature is endowed with enthusiasm or the ability to show keen interest in a subject or cause. Synonyms for enthusiasm include words like eagerness, keenness, passion and zeal. Our enthusiasm brings our lives to life. Through enthusiasm we express those attributes and character traits that are unique to who we are.

We might recognize enthusiasm in an exclamation like “WOW!” or an energetic movement such as giving a high-five. These, however, are only expressions of enthusiasm and not enthusiasm itself. Enthusiasm can also be shown with a calm demeanor and a simple willingness to act without procrastination. Often acting in an enthusiastic manner can be a source of creating more enthusiasm but it should not be confused with actual enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm is found on a continuum between lethargy and frantic activity or anxiety. Lethargy is the inability to bring energy into one’s life, while frantic activity is having more energy than actually needed. Anxiety is about wasting energy on activities that have no value. Enthusiasm is that point where there is sufficient energy to empower one to act with confidence and eagerness in service to one’s fellow human beings. Enthusiasm is the ability to gather enough energy to act assertively.

When we are enthusiastic, we infuse life with energy. While the animal nature of man can become enthused on the spur of the moment there is also an enthusiasm driven by reason. The mystic purposefully channels energy like a laser beam into significant causes or actions. Whereas others might throw in the towel and quit, the mystic will not measure success by outcomes but by the importance of the cause. Enthusiasm that is purely based on a moment of interest, or novelty, is hardly sustainable, but enthusiasm that comes from consciously generating energy is sustainable and brings purpose to our whole being.

Enthusiasm is like stoking the fire on a steam engine; it provides the drive for work to be accomplished. When we desire knowledge we cannot achieve it without discipline and discipline can only be maintained with enthusiasm. When we lose our enthusiasm we lose momentum in whatever endeavor we have set out to achieve.

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Actions that are linked to emotions achieve far more and are more sustainable than actions without emotion. We need enthusiasm both to start something as well as to bring something to a final conclusion.

What can assist us in bringing enthusiasm into our lives?

We must understand firstly that our human nature is both creative and purposeful. Enthusiasm is generated when we discover or do something new ... sparked by a healthy curiosity in life. Doing something new creates enthusiasm and we can use reason to choose to do something new even if we do not feel like it. Enthusiasm that is sustainable is a choice made using reason, not a feeling in terms of a reaction to life. To develop the virtue of enthusiasm we can develop a habit of doing something new. The “something new” does not have to be a huge life-changing step but can be as simple in today’s world as experimenting with a new app on a tablet or getting to know a new person. When we purposefully choose to live more creatively and try out new ways of doing things, enthusiasm will follow as we discover new approaches to old and familiar scenarios. When we get stuck in a feeling, unable to move forward, then it is time to consider doing something new.

Being purposeful implies seeking to live a significant life of meaning. We generate enthusiasm by becoming more aware of the significance of opportunities entering our lives. We infuse our life with energy by stepping back and seeing the bigger potential of a situation to be meaningful. When our interest is triggered and we begin to see that we could create a positive impact, then enthusiasm is an unavoidable consequence. Planning how to achieve an end result will always contribute to generating enthusiasm because a plan requires a vision or a goal. By visualizing the goal in a vivid and concrete way, we can test our vision and impart broader purpose into the vision. We can envisage beyond the initial stages of starting a project by actually seeing the final outcome and significance of an action.

Enthusiasm is contagious. Surrounding ourselves with enthusiastic people does help to generate enthusiasm in our own lives, but it makes us dependent on others for our enthusiasm. As mystics aiming for self-mastery, we need to learn and exercise the ability to generate enthusiasm independently. One way is to show an interest in something that is of interest to the people around us. We can infuse energy into a situation by acknowledging that others have a creative and purposeful nature. Rather than just being absorbed with our own creativity and purpose we can always choose to extend this practice to others, who share our life paths. As we contribute to the enthusiasm of others, that enthusiasm will in turn rapidly filter into our own worthwhile intentions.

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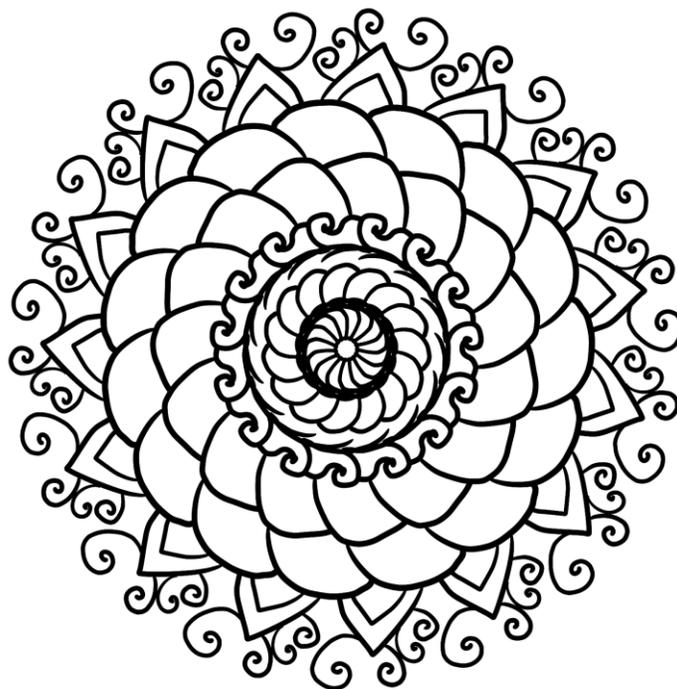
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Enthusiasm is sustained by a consistent attitude of gratitude. When we appreciate life and the opportunities it offers us to live a life of excellence or to build our characters, then gratitude transforms into further enthusiasm. Let's not remain stagnant in thinking that life is about our material goals and pleasures which are but temporary and unsustainable. Our perspective must be broadened to set our goals and see the divine within of our human nature. Let's set a goal to create conditions for the soul to express divine benevolence in this world. When we see ourselves as a vehicle for the divine flowing into the material world to manifest goodwill within the context of fellow-feeling, then enthusiasm will become the momentum that pulls us forward to live life fully. Enthusiasm does not come from inaction but through taking a single step forward into a direction that edifies our character.

What we can achieve through enthusiasm is far beyond our wildest dreams. When we take responsibility for bringing energy into our lives, we become an active force for positive change in the world. When we are a positive force, irrespective of our circumstances, then we give full expression to human excellence. The energy at our disposal is available in abundance if only we make the choice to manifest it consciously through the way we live.

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**Aaron Feathersmith** (*A Righteous Imagination, pg. 14*)

Aaron considers himself just a “regular guy” with an “independently spiritual mind” which is why his pseudonym of choice is *Feathersmith*. He lives in upper New York State with his wife Cynthia and their hound dog Nix and their cat Dharma. Aaron is a freelance writer and cartoonist and enjoys rug weaving. He gives occasional classes on working with looms.

**Rev. Micah Allard** (*Easing Good Out or Exercising Good Outwardly, pg. 16*)

Rev. Micah Allard is psychologist and minister and part time Justice of the Peace. He has a passion for passing on the word of God via metaphysical avenues. Rev. Allard is also a skilled musician who can play 22 instruments but prefers organ and piano. He lives in the northeast US with his wife Yvonne and two children.

**Matt Sharpe** (*Choices and True Motivations, pg. 18*)

Matt Sharpe lives in the Southwest US and enjoys writing about spiritual topics of all kinds, using his personal experiences as a reference. While never referring to himself as a shaman, he does work inwardly with many from various traditions. He also is a guitarist and singer/songwriter.

**Connie Collett** (*How Closely Connected Are We? pg.24*)

Connie is continually on the search for truth and light. She is a native of Georgia and resides in Woodstock with her husband. As a hairdresser in a very busy Atlanta salon, she embraces the opportunities to counsel clients. She enjoys the great outdoors where she feels closest to the Creator. Her studies have included Crystal Therapy, Angels, meditation and Animal Totems just to mention a few.

**Jurgens Pieterse** (*Enthusiasm, pg.26*)

Jurgens Pieterse, of South Africa was initiated on his spiritual path at the age of ten through a thoane (caracal) shamanic ritual. He received his Bachelor degree in Industrial Engineering in 1989 (Master's degree in Industrial Engineering in 1996) and was actively involved in the Dutch Reformed church until that time. In 1993, an obscure book, *Miraculous Management* by Saul Kuchinsky sparked his lifelong interest in the esoteric arts and sciences. He started to study the fourth way teachings of JG Bennett, PD Ouspensky and GI Gurdjieff. He travelled to the United States to meet Saul Kuchinsky and attend a workshop by Anthony Blake author of "The intelligent enneagram". The meeting inspired him to deepen his study of the enneagram. His continued interest in systems theory led him to study divination systems: Astrology, Tarot, I-Ching, Geomancy and Runes. In 2005 Jurgens became a member of the Rosicrucian Order (AMORC). Currently Jurgens is working as a Management Information Systems Manager at the Parliament of South Africa where he also leads daily practice sessions in Tai Chi and Yoga.

# The Body Temple

“Let thy holy temple  
be thy body” ...



**Section Managing Editor – Lynda Lidel Harley**

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## *Elective Health Astrology – Timing Procedures*

Rev. Dr. Loni Haas

Many analytic processes in astrology require discernment of the condition of the Moon and choosing a good date for surgery is no exception. It is a good idea to operate 5 days before or after a New Moon. The Moon rules the tidal fluids of the body and during this period the fluids are at their lowest which assists with healing. There is usually less swelling and lymph drainage after surgery. It is never a good idea to operate 5 days before or after a Full Moon when the body fluids are at their highest and swelling and bruising and overt drainage can take place. Things will return back to normal eventually but much later than would be desired. A Void-Of-Course Moon is another facet to avoid because it can indicate that mistakes will be made and that allergic reactions to drugs or anesthesia can occur. Often the client will require further surgery at a later date for repair.

The Moon's signature is also important. Each sign of the zodiac represents an area of the anatomy so it is not a good idea if on the day of the surgery, the Moon is in the sign or opposite the sign that rules the part of the body scheduled for repair. If this does occur, healing is prolonged and the bodily area is sensitive and tender for a long period of time. The best Moon sign for operations are when the Moon is in a Fixed Sign such as Taurus, Leo, Scorpio or Aquarius as these signs all represent strength. These signs should not be chosen if they correspond with the part of the anatomy slated for repair. For example, a tonsillectomy should not take place when the Moon is in the sign of Taurus which rules the throat or the sign opposite Taurus which is Scorpio. The 2nd best choice is Cardinal signs – Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn. It is best to avoid Mutable signs such as Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces as it is believed that the surgeon might be a bit too “creative” during these transits. It is never a good idea to operate on the day when the Moon is either conjunct, square, inconjunct (quincunx) the individual's natal Sun, Mars, Saturn or Neptune. On the other hand, sextiles or trines to the individual's natal Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto are helpful. If the Moon is conjunct the natal Venus or Jupiter this is a boon as these planets provide an extra degree of protection.

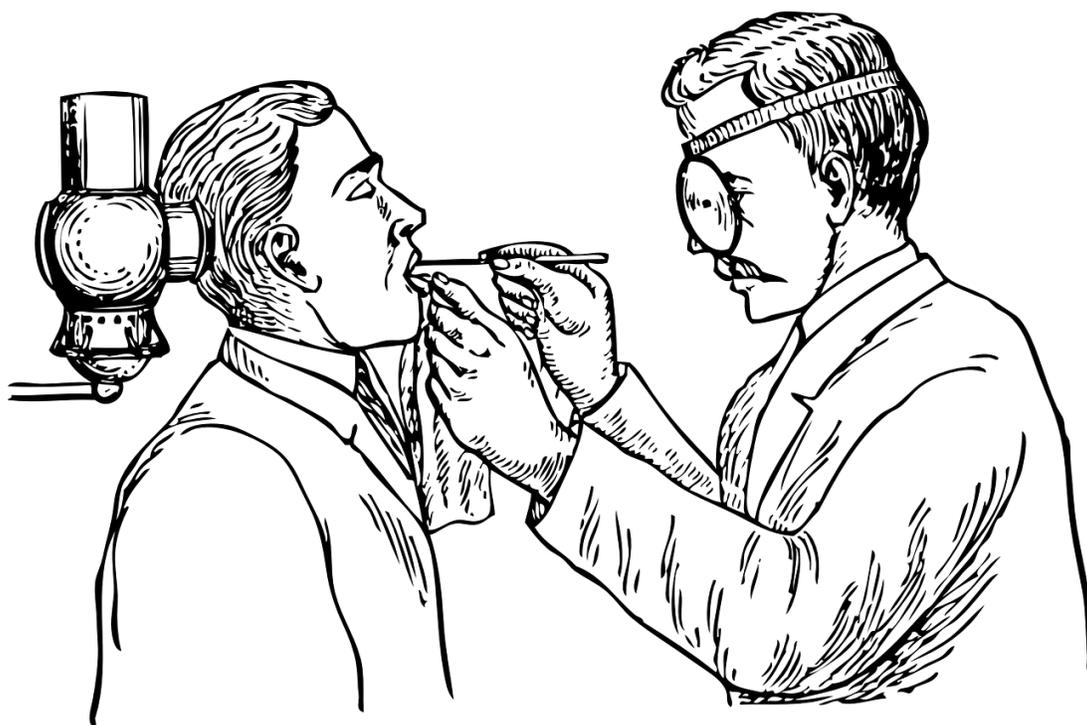
Aside from the Moon, the cosmic condition of transiting Mercury and Mars and Neptune need attention. A big no-no is scheduling surgery during a Mercury retrograde period. Mistakes with lab work or mistakes rendered by the surgeon or by those in attendance during surgery are common. Also common is allergic reaction to anesthesia or pre and post-operative medications. Sutures can fall out or become undone before healing has taken place or sometimes staples or sponges are sutured into the incision by mistake. Later surgery to repair mistakes is basically a given and statistically most malpractice suits occur as a direct result of surgery that conducted during Mercury retrograde.

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A retrograde transiting Mars is also a big problem. Mars rules surgery and cutting and when the planet is retrograde sudden or unexpected hemorrhaging can take place along with abnormal swelling, inflammation, bruising and internal bleeding. Emergency rooms are usually very busy during Mars retrograde tending to accident victims. In addition to Mars, I have also found it helpful to check out the conditions surrounding Neptune in the natal chart. Neptune rules drugs, medications and anesthesia along with any allergies to these things. Should any individual show cosmic risk in his/her nativity for allergies this should be brought to the attention of the client and surgeon. Propensity for infection which is also partly ruled by Neptune should also be discerned.

Clients who are seeking more insight into their actual medical conditions astrologically should seek the advice of a qualified Medical Astrologer. **As a rule of thumb it is wise to remember that a bonafide Medical Astrologer is also a credentialed practicing Medical Doctor.** Do not settle for less.



## *Healing With Gems, Stones and the Seven Rays*

Leigh Ward Wadan

The number seven resonates in accord with Mother Earth and all who reside within her bounty. The Law of Seven in part relates to the Seven Rays, the seven Archangels known as the seven who stand before God and the number assigned to the Earth which is seven. Concerning Mother Earth, the number seven denotes transmutation. Broken down this refers to four=matter, and three=spirit. The blending of three and four as seven attains the supreme goal of human evolution ... transmutation.

Mother Earth provides us with a plethora of gems and stones that work in accordance with the Seven Rays. The precious gems mentioned in this article are said to sit at the head of each Ray. I have also included stones and crystals that will hold the force of the Rays but with slightly less strength.

At the head of the First Ray of Will and Power is the DIAMOND. Diamond is considered a master healer. It reflects the will and power of God as well as alignment with the higher "Self." Inherent in the diamond is an array of color which augments all of the energies within the mind, body, and spirit. The diamond is the "stone of purity" and its pure white light will promote fortitude and fearlessness while pinpointing any negativity which requires transformation. It is easy to understand how the diamond relates to the Archangel Michael who guides the First Ray. Holding the power of this Ray but with less strength is clear quartz crystal. Clear quartz is also considered a master healer which can raise energy to its highest level.

At the head of the Second Ray of Love and Wisdom is the BLUE SAPPHIRE. Blue Sapphire aligns the mind, body, and spirit while expanding cosmic awareness and enhancing clarity and inspiration. It is often called the "wisdom stone" whose energies are employed by the seeker of spiritual truth whose path is guided by love. The Archangel Zophkiel who guides this Ray is the governor of Instruction and Mastership and under the Second Ray are found the great teachers of Earth School. Holding the power of this Ray but with less strength are Lapis Lazuli, Sodalite, and Turquoise. All of these stones open spiritual perception and allow truth to be taught through the spoken word.

At the head of the Third Ray of Active Intelligence is the EMERALD. The soothing color green inherent in the Emerald is often associated with the Archangel of this Ray, Raphael, who is often depicted with loving green light flowing from his aura. The Emerald represents divine potential, balance, and healing. It is the "stone of regeneration and recovery" and can be used to assist the healing of malignant conditions and post infectious disorders.

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Holding the power of this Ray but with less strength are Green Malachite, Jade, and Aquamarine. These stones are good cleansers and immune system promoters. Please note that Green Malachite is most safely handled in its polished form which eliminates its natural toxicity.

At the head of the Fourth Ray of Harmony through Conflict is the JASPER. Jasper has been used by mankind for healing since the beginning of the human race. It is known as the “nurturer stone” and the stone of balance which makes it a perfect representative of this Ray. The Archangel of this Ray is Gabriel who controls Influences. Jasper is often used by contemporary shamans to clear electromagnet and environmental pollution particularly radiation here on Mother Earth. Holding the power of this Ray but with less strength are Agate, Serpentine, and Chalcedony. These stones are highly connected to nature and promote goodwill and brotherhood by correcting human to human imbalances.

At the head of the Fifth Ray of Concrete Knowledge and Science is the TOPAZ. Topaz is well suited to this Ray because it helps one cut through uncertainty and aids in problem solving. The Archangel of this Ray is Zedekiel who is the governor of Discovery and Topaz insures that the interrelation of minute detail and the “big” picture are astutely recognized and expressed. Holding the power of this Ray but with less strength are Citrine and Steatite. These stones enhance concentration and self-confidence so information can be analyzed for wise counsel. Steatite in particular enhances rational intellect and objectivity.

At the head of the Sixth Ray of Devotion and Idealism is the RUBY. The Ruby is the stone of spiritual devotion, selfless service, and purpose. It is known as the “stone of nobility” and is said to promote leadership and individuality while maintaining interconnectedness with humanity. This is aligned with the Archangel Madimiel who guides this Ray and who governs Purpose and Zealous Readying. Holding the power of this Ray but with less strength are Garnet and Tourmaline. These are stones of commitment and cooperation.

At the head of the Seventh Ray of Ceremonial Order is the AMETHYST. Amethyst is literally the physical representative of the Violet Flame of alchemy and transformation. Amethyst is thought to transmute the lower nature into more refined higher potentiality. Amethyst is often referred to as the “stone of spirituality” and the “stone of common sense” and these attributes are reflected within this Ray. The Archangel of this Ray is Haniel who governs Revelation and Amethyst is key in helping one gain knowledge of the art of spiritual healing by stimulating vision into the unknown realms. Holding the power of this Ray but less strength are Labradorite and Moonstone which both promote “intergalactic” communication.

## *Telluric Nwyfre Exercise*

Karyn "Nwyvre" Katz

There are a couple of Nwyfre exercises. Nwyfre is everywhere but the two most intense concentrations within our reach come from the Sun and deep within the Earth. Nwyfre from the Sun fills the Earth's upper atmosphere and moves downward. It is strongest at dawn or noon but for those living in higher geographical elevations, it's even present at midnight.

Nwyfre from the Earth moves upward through stone and soil. It's strongest around green plants, trees and around natural places of water like springs. It would be very energizing if an underground spring is located so you could stand above it. The Earth Nwyfre follows more complex cycles in time and space constituted by lunar phases and planetary and seasonal changes interplaying with stone, soil and earth. That current that is generated is called Telluric.

The solar Nwyfre current is considered "male" and is also known as the "current of wisdom" It stimulates the energy centers in the chest, throat and hands thus awakening intellect, abstraction and impersonal awareness. The telluric current is "feminine" and known as the current of power. It stimulates centers in the belly, pelvic basin and feet and enhances the vital force - life, love and passion. So you end up with absolute awareness and absolute energy. The solar and telluric currents are primary and always present and existed before any living things on Earth came into manifestation.

This particular exercise infuses and attunes the body to telluric current. This entire rehash is from *The Druidry Handbook* by John Michael Greer:

- >Find a natural place where the land has suffered the least amount of damage by human hands.
- > If possible be barefoot. The exercise is said to have different effects according to where one is standing such as grass, sand, soil or stone.
- >Three deep breaths inhaled through the nose and exhaled out the mouth to assist relaxation and balance.
- >Hold your arms in a downward arc, hands about a foot out from your sides at hip level. Palms should face the ground and fingers should be pointing forward. Relax the arms as much as possible and spread the fingers apart gently.
- >Breathe slowly and deeply for one to three minutes. Those who are sensitive will feel the Earth energies flowing into the fingertips.

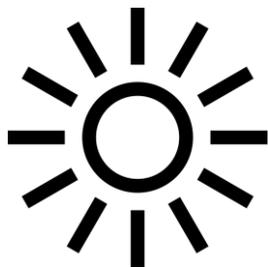
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>Bring the fingertips inward toward the vital center two inches below the naval, stopping a few inches from the body - palms should be facing towards you with fingertips nearly touching. Focus on Earth current flowing from fingers into the midline of the body. Hold for a few minutes.

>Move the hands slowly upward while remaining aware of the telluric current flowing into the midline - from the vital center up to the throat. Separate your hands sweeping them up and out to your sides. Bow deeply and return to the first step.

>People usually do three to nine cycles.



## *Psychic Vocabulary*

Ben McFarlane

I want to suggest to the global community of lightworkers the concept of a psychic vocabulary. Spiritual guidance comes in all forms. Its content is greatly influenced by the medium channeling it. A medium's knowledge, all the specific bits of data that the Cosmic may bring the medium's mind to, is that medium's psychic vocabulary. In this way the medium's mind is like a bag of runes or a Tarot deck. Any mental object may be thrown spontaneously to the front of mind to heal or help. A broad, accessible psychic vocabulary is thus part of being a vibrant, effective medium.

One example: In my Reiki practice, aside from channeling energy, I often experience visions. Generally the more vivid and decisive the image is, the more likely it is to be relevant. During a recent session, I saw very clear and vivid imagery from Stephen King's book, the Dark Tower. Red-orange roses blossomed in my imagination and then I saw the dark tower quite clearly in my mind's eye. It came quite out of "knowhere" and when I finished the session I said to my client "You **MUST** have read the Dark Tower, and it must have meant something to you." In fact, he was on book 6 of the 7 book epic, and was delighted that I was able to intuit that aspect of his life. Such confirmations often strengthen a client's trust in one's practice. They can, of course, only materialize if they're within a medium's vocabulary.

The horizon for potential guidance is so much broader than our own intuitive vision. Everything can be a symbol or a message, a holy book, a self-help book, a smell, a type of flower, a religious or spiritual symbol, a color, a god, goddess, an angel or a demon, a type of crystal, a type of yoga, a sephiroth, the list of potential "words" in one's spiritual vocabulary, is infinite.

I have a few suggestions:

1) Broaden your vocabulary: For me, this means broadening my knowledge of spiritual characters. I want to know more about the pantheon of Lamrim Buddhism, of Christianity, of Hinduism. Since I'm quite visual, spiritual symbols and flowers often come into my mind, hence I want to broaden my knowledge of them as well. This does not necessarily mean knowing the depths of their meaning, it merely means being aware of more symbols and being open to receiving them as a message.

2) Interpretation and projection: When healing, you're channeling guidance on behalf of your client.

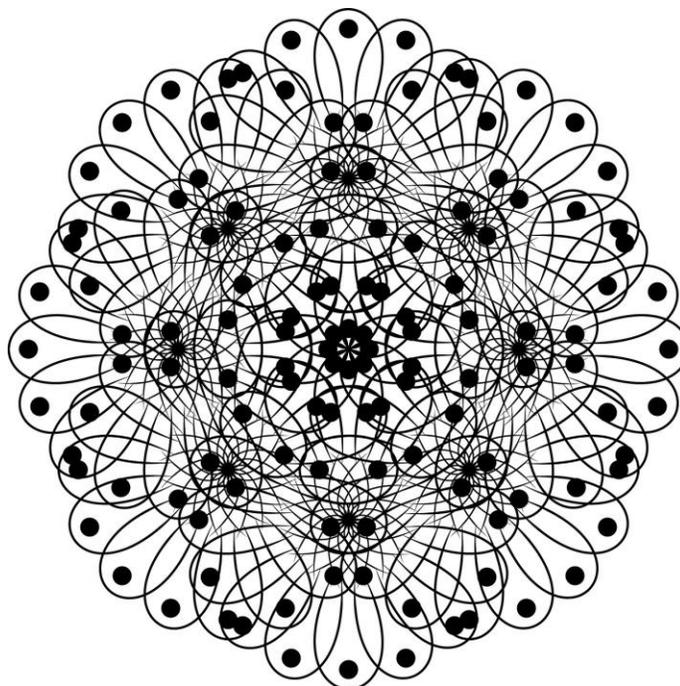
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If you have an interpretation of a specific message, in other words if a symbol comes through that means a lot for you, then it might be important for you to relate that meaning, however know that it may carry a different meaning for your client. For this reason, I strive to be as literal and as true to what comes across to my mind as I can without projecting my own interpretations upon it.

3) Exercise your fluency: I think this is my most important suggestion: exercise one's access to that psychic vocabulary, whatever it might be. For me, this means frequently calling potentially useful "words" into my mind's eye. To this end, I meditate on those mental objects that are within my vocabulary. I also set the intention to allow those images into my mind. If I were an herbalist, I would, in meditation, review my knowledge of herbal medicine, if I were a physiotherapist, I might draw my attention to various tendons and muscle groups. This is to establish a pathway in the brain, to open the channel wider to those parts of one's knowledge and provide the Cosmic with a ready access to them when the time comes.

I submit this humbly for the consideration of all.



## *Let There Be Balance*

Karen Compretta C.R., C.A.

For most of my life I have tried to maintain what I perceived as balance in my life, my work and play. It never seemed that hard when I was younger maybe because I saw myself as a middle of the road type of person never going to extremes. Then the day came when my doctor threw out the “M” word and in that one shocking moment my life became totally unbalanced. (I’m sure one of the reasons was I knew I was much too young to be menopausal.)

Well, I soon realized I needed to take a closer look at my life if I wanted to become a balanced woman again. This meant examining my “self” on all levels... physically, mentally and spiritually. What I discovered was that there were no set rules because even though we are each so different and unique there are many things we can do to insure balance in our lives at any stage of life.

My quest has taken me down many paths and the information I have gathered has proven to be very helpful in my life so I’d like to share some of it with you.

The recurring theme I found from classes on energy and healing to Quantum Physics was this idea of how powerful thoughts are in creating our lives, our biology and eventually the world around us. From the moment we are born the customs and environment begin shaping our behavior and experiences building within us our ideas, mindsets and the way we view the world. These are the foundations that really set the tone of our thoughts as we move through life. As new information is received we decide how we will act on this new information. Unfortunately a lot of the information we take in from the world around us is not to our advantage especially when it comes to the world’s view on body image. It seems the world would like us all to be the same but we’re not. Have you ever met anyone exactly like you? The reason we don’t is because we are all unique.

When we come into this life we are gifted with a magnificent body. Turns out our bodies are the most complex organism on earth. If you look at the number of processes that it takes for us to just breathe, move, hear, see, digest, eliminate, think and simply stay alive it’s mind-boggling. Yet as wonderful as we are most of us hate or strongly dislike our bodies and treat them with very little respect. We feed our bodies dead processed, chemical laden food and then wonder why we are heavy, tired and depressed. We tell others and ourselves how much we hate our thighs, our stomachs and our cellulite. When we look in a mirror instead of seeing the great work we are we see something wrong with our hair, our skin or the way our clothes fit.

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One important thing we may not realize is that each of our cells which are so complete and complex are listening to everything we say and are responding to our words and thoughts by giving us exactly what we are complaining about.

It is important what we put into our bodies but, it is just as important if not more important what we put into our minds. "Current neuroscience has proven that our thoughts, beliefs, and emotions affect our bodies at a cellular and chemical level, significantly affecting energy and health."<sup>1</sup> It's a choice to begin to live consciously. To become aware of the thoughts you have on a daily basis about body, weight and our lives in general. When we are not conscious of our thoughts they can get away from us so quickly. We also tend to be so hard on ourselves holding us personally to a much higher standard than anyone else around us. It may seem hard at first catching those negative thoughts but eventually the more aware you are of the type of thoughts your having the easier it is.

A great exercise to do each day is to take ten to fifteen minutes sometime during the day and come up with a sort of picture of yourself. Write these thoughts down so you can say them out loud with intention and strong emotion. As your picture of yourself changes so will the thoughts you express. To give you an example you may say, "I see myself in perfect health." I see myself invigorated with life appreciating everyone and everything in my life. With practice, being conscious of your thoughts will begin to spill over into other areas of your life. As they do, add other thoughts to your picture, things like I choose continuing abundance, joy, balance, harmony, wonderful relationships, being unlimited in all you do. Whatever you can think of you can create in your life. The more we come to understand the power of our thoughts the more interest you will have in deliberately directing them, for we get what we think about, whether we want it or not.

Have you ever stopped to consider where all the input comes from? Ninety percent of it comes from the world around us. Shows we watch, newspapers we read, the conversations that we have. That's billions of bits of information going into our brains daily and we take it all in like computers and have to process and file it away somewhere. Maybe that's why we spend time trying to understand things that may not apply to us or carry around big files of unresolved issues. We need to be aware of what we put into our databanks. When we understand and recognize the correlation between what we are thinking and feeling and what is showing up in our lives then we'll become more aware of our thoughts. Once we have that realization that's when we begin to direct our thoughts to create positive life experiences, bodies that function at their highest and all the things we would like in our lives.

So I encourage you to start today no matter how things appear in your life now. Disregard those things and focus only on how you would like things to be. Most importantly do not pay attention to how others may see you and what they may have to say.

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With practice you will recognize a faulty thought and change it to a positive one and by doing this you will begin to make changes in your life. Sickness can become wellness, bad relationships can be replaced with good relationships, lack of prosperity can become prosperity, and an unbalanced life can be balanced and so on.

When we stop going through life on autopilot merely observing what's going on around us and we take back control of our lives and thoughts we begin to create positive changes. You will come to know that there is nothing that you cannot be, do, or have.

Happy thoughts!!!





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**Rev. Dr. Loni Haas** (*Elective Health Astrology – Timing Procedures, pg. 31*)

Loni Haas is a behavioral therapist, veteran exoteric and esoteric astrologer, research member of the American Federation of Astrologers (AFA), member of the National Council of Geocosmic Research (NCGR), as well as a lifetime member of the American Association of Behavioral Therapists. She is an ordained minister and Doctor of Divinity of the Universal Light Church of Cincinnati, Ohio where she is certified in several healing modalities.

**Leigh Ward Wadan** (*Healing With Gems, Stones and the Seven Rays, pg. 33*)

Leigh considers herself a “new scientist” and does not consider crystal healing a pseudoscience by any measure. She has a MA in geology from Rani Durgavati University in India. She has been an alternative energy healer for 30 years. Fifteen years ago she became interested in Galactic Healing and became acquainted with the Seven Rays and Angelic Healing. She decided to combine that knowledge with her own knowledge of crystal properties and energy effects on the human body. Leigh loves to travel and is currently visiting Australia.

**Karyn “Nwyvre” Katz** (*Telluric Nwyvre Exercise, pg.35*)

Karyn is a Druid, shamanic healer and a Reiki Master, and has been a Vipassana meditator for 10 years. She spends as much time as possible outdoors where she practices ‘freedom to be oneself’ while connecting with and interacting with the spirit of the land. Karyn loves to teach others how to create their own sacred space where they can more readily tap into universal consciousness. She has two cats, a dog and a parrot and lives in the upper mid north US.

**Ben McFarlane** (*Psychic Vocabulary, pg. 37*)

I'm a lightworker dedicated to sharing the knowledge I've gleaned from the cosmic mind. I have been a lightworker for a few years now. I use Reiki primarily, and while I find it an extremely useful and proven method of spiritual healing, I still dip into my own repertoire of symbols to augment my practice.

**Karen Compretta** (*Let There Be Balance, pg. 39*)

Karen Compretta C.R., C.A. is a Reiki practitioner, an aroma therapist, a Crystal Therapist and a highly qualified Reflexologist. She studied with Roz Zollinger who is Founder of the Heal Center Institute and the unique Zollinger “Bodysystems Method of Reflexology and Aromatherapy.” She achieved her Master level of Reiki with Rev. Patrick Abent of the Inner Quest Church of Atlanta, Georgia. Karen is also a specialized lecturer on the subject of energetics.

# PHENOMENA FILES

A woman with long blonde hair is embracing a large, stylized figure from behind. The figure has a large, glowing yellow eye and hair made of autumn leaves. The scene is set in a dark, atmospheric environment with a stone structure and a glowing orb in the background.

Nothing is as innocent as it seems

**Section Managing Editor – John Holbrook PSI**

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Imagery: Pixabay.com

## *Benjamin*

Deidre O'Dwyer Lucasi

There is a story my aunt always told about 'Benjamin.' What exactly Benjamin was no one really knows. My aunt was the only one who could see him. She described him as around two feet tall wearing a green plaid suit and a derby hat. His face always seemed to be in shadow so his features could not be discerned. He hung around in the basement of her parent's house in which she lived and she was terrified of him.

As our family is Irish I always thought my aunt was teasing about a leprechaun – a total fantasy that she was making up to get a scare out of younger siblings. I thought that until she felt down the cellar stairs. She said she was pushed. Luckily she escaped any injury only complaining about a sore butt.

The basement was a typical 60s basement and was remodeled with paneling and a tile floor with an area rug here and there. It was used mainly for parties and celebrations but a corner of it served as a small sewing area and another closed off area held the washer and dryer. It seemed that Benjamin was fascinated with the sewing machine and it would often be finishing a run just as you went down the stairs. Small things around the room would get moved as well like ashtrays and knick-knacks. Nothing major and nothing that wasn't easily blamed on another family member.

It seemed that Benjamin also liked to go out at night, as my claimed she'd seen him late at night climbing out a cellar window and running across the backyard out into the woods. One night she stayed awake and watched clocking him out at 1:00 am and back for 4:00 am. There would be no physical evidence of him out in the yard, or near the window or even inside the cellar. No muddy footprints or grass or anything else.

After a while my aunt stopped going down into the basement to sew and waited until she had a lot of laundry before going down there to do wash. Eventually she became engaged to marry and was always afraid Benjamin would follow her since it seemed she was the only one who had seen him. The day before her wedding she went down in the basement to retrieve some laundry that her sister had folded for her and left in a laundry basket. She fetched the basket and went back to her room ready to finish packing for her honeymoon.

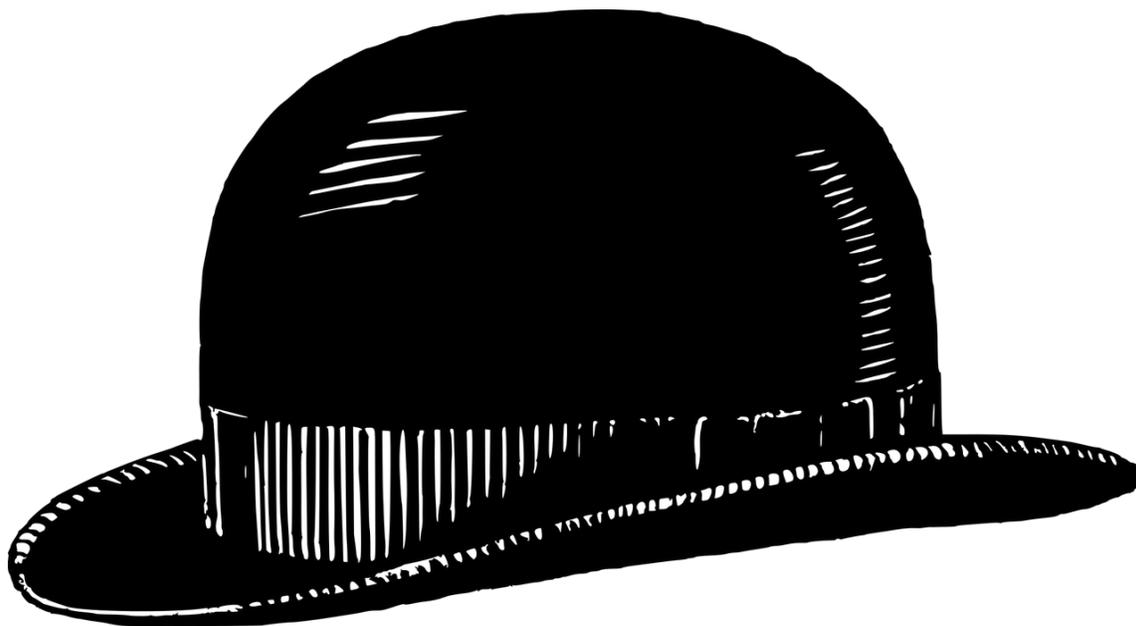
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About halfway through the stack of folded clothes she found a folded gum wrapper.

It said:

Goodbye



## *The Owl Curse*

Janine Lanz

As a paranormal team, my husband Carl and I are often approached with varying questions from the public. Many questions have to do with curses and a majority of those are family curses.

Family curses as all curses can be difficult to lift if they can be lifted at all. Sometimes a plea for forgiveness expressed to whoever cast the curse is successful but more often it isn't. Often the 'curser' was someone known to the family in the time period it happened – sometimes it may have been a general curse upon the land or specific property – sometimes it might be a generational curse and at other times a timed curse. Non-belief in a curse doesn't necessarily stop it either as a very particular negative energy backed by plenty of emotion has been set in motion. The popular 'send it back' theory can be helpful depending upon the type and severity of the curse but not always applicable especially if the curse is generational.

Curses are always a form of black magic even if no ritual or ceremony was conducted because of the negative and harmful intent associated with them. Knowledge of them makes things worse because the 'what if' contingency exists. The mind will work against the person who is cursed and depending on the fortitude of the individual, anything from simple annoyances and psychological stress can lead to physical illness or in the worst cases death. An important factor to note is that a curse can backfire on the curser although such strong emotions have been evoked at the time it is cast can overrule a little common sense. Unless the curser is adept in dark arts, he or she may forget to protect themselves making themselves subject to a boomerang effect.

The Owl Curse was brought to our attention by a young couple who were clearly distressed. It was a generational curse placed upon first born male heirs (which seems to be the most popular type of older curse) dating back to the 1700s. The couple only had a family legend concerning it and felt it had been a little too successful throughout the years with little exception. The outcome was death at age 40 and the husband was already 38. The couple also had three boys so they were anxious to see what could be done.

The back story was that it started with a property and land dispute which seems is also a popular 'reason' for the time period.

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It seems the husband's family had acquired a neighbor's property due to improper purchase by the neighbor who had been duped by a crooked real estate person who actually had no land to sell but was clever at getting immigrants to pay for land elsewhere in the country complete with the proper papers. The husband's family legally won the land and actually allowed the other family to live on the land as long as they were willing to farm it as compensation and a form of rent. Most of the family accepted this gladly except the old family matriarch who was known to 'dabble' in old world ways. She placed the curse on her neighbors that the first born male would die at age 40 and that for one week prior, the hapless victim would see visions of an owl flying towards them. And so it was and so it happened long after both families had moved away to different parts of the country and grew over the years.

The couple said they had the original legal document and even though the original homes no longer existed on the property the yards were divided the same way as they were back long ago. We felt this was extremely helpful in perhaps lifting the curse. We suggested that they get permission to visit the property and perhaps try to contact a member of the old curser's family who might be willing to help. We all got lucky with this one as a member of the other family was an amateur historian and knew of the curse and legend and was more than willing to participate.

Once at the property, a small ceremony was performed which included a burning of the document (which was useless and had no legality anymore), an apology and prayerful intent and a sincere appeal to the old matriarch to lift the curse as her descendants were all very successful in life and had exceeded the rival family in stature and wealth. It seemed to go well and we were all satisfied but I personally like a bit more closure with such things. Keeping with my Penobscot heritage I asked for a sign.

As we were walking back to our cars, there was a rustling in the trees and we spotted a large bird flying away in the opposite direction.

It was an owl.

As far we know, the couple is happy and living a good life. The husband is now 48.

## *Object Hauntings*

John Holbrook, Holbrook PSI

Within the world of the paranormal, there are many different types of ghosts and hauntings. Some ghosts are not associated with a house or a place but are associated with an object. The object type of haunting occurs when a ghost is attached to an object and the object is brought into a house or a different place. This is not to say that every object has a spirit attached to it or that every haunting is associated with an object. The object could range from anything from a piece of jewelry to furniture. The connection to the object in life is why there is the connection in the afterlife. An object type of a haunting usually starts unexpectedly and can be one of the easiest to types to resolve. Here is an example of this type of haunting. The names have been omitted and replaced with initials.

After the passing of my grandmother, the family divided all of her personal belongings between her sons and daughters. My aunt "W" got most of the kitchenware including an old cast iron skillet that was mostly used to make cornbread. This particular skillet was passed down to my grandmother by her mother-in-law when she had passed and was my grandmother's favorite skillet. This skillet was coveted by all of my aunts because they all learned to cook cornbread with it when they were growing up. My grandmother was a very good cook and all her daughters inherited her culinary abilities and were also good cooks. For a year, there was some dispute between my aunts about this skillet. My Aunt "I" thought it should have gone to her because she was the oldest daughter. During one of our family reunions, my Aunt "W" gave the skillet to my Aunt "I" and I did overhear Aunt "I" say that the skillet was 'rightfully' hers. My Aunt "W" before this time did not let on that she had the skillet and that she had tried to use it with unsatisfactory results. I heard her tell my Cousin "J" that she did not know what the big deal was and that the skillet did not seem to "cook right" anymore anyway.

I asked my Aunt "W" what she meant when she said that the skillet did not "cook right" because a cast iron skillet only requires that you keep it greased so nothing will stick. There are no moving parts that can go bad. She said that it was always sticking and would never cook even and also that it must have been off balance or not level because it would rock back and forth sometimes in the oven. It had even fallen out of the cupboards several times.

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I dropped by my Aunt "I's" place one day around two weeks later because I was curious if she was having any problems. I also made sure that my time of arrival would be around dinner time (I did say they were all good cooks!). She was in the kitchen cooking up a storm and of course, she asked if I would stay for dinner. For dinner, she made some cornbread and I asked her if she had cooked it in grandmother's skillet. She said yes. She also added that she did not know what Aunt "W" was making such a fuss over because the skillet was working fine and the cornbread was great and turned out just like grandmother used to make it.

*The moral of this story is that my grandmother was very old fashioned and wanted her favorite skillet to go to her oldest daughter and it finally did. When it was rightfully placed the problems stopped!*

### **Place Hauntings and Natural Objects**

Place hauntings could be linked to a death that occurs in an area or a place that was a favorite spot in life. The departed will continue to visit their favorite spot after they pass. Here is an example of a haunted place. I have many friends that work in the law enforcement field as officers and they know that I have done paranormal investigation. One of the stories that several different offices have told me about regards a parking lot where strange things happen. Officer "B" said there was this parking lot that he would pull into at night so he could sit and work on some of his paper work and still be in the area to take calls. He said that his radar would go off showing speeds from 20 to 32 miles an hour and then a few seconds later the signal would be lost. He said that there was nothing in front of him except a hill and he said that it kept doing this even after he checked different things out in the car to make sure that there was no interference. He said that it continued to do this every 4 to 5 minutes until he left the area.

I asked him to repeat the whole story including location and he mentioned the parking lot was an old rural church parking lot that he was sitting under a big tree. I asked him if when he moved the car around in the parking if the radar was triggered and he said no and that it only happened when he was sitting under the tree. I asked him to check the next time he was up in that area if there were any power lines in close proximity to the lot and if his experience was repeated. He agreed to check.

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Two weeks later Officer “J” asked me if I knew anything about the old church. I relayed “B’s” story to him and he said that he had some similar things happen to him when he was at the lot and that during the day he had checked the area out for power lines both underground and above ground. He reported that there were no power lines near the tree. He also said that when he would get out of his car the doors would lock if he walked away from the car. I started to think that the two officers were trying to pull a fast one on me with the two stories so I drove up there to check it out for myself.

I parked my car under the tree and got out to walk around when I saw a caretaker cutting the grass in the cemetery. I walked over to talk to him making sure that I did not lock my car. After a little small talk, I asked him what he knew about the church and the area. He asked me if I was a local person and I was honest with him and told him that I was not. He said that he did not think that I was because I would have known the story of the preacher who had hung himself in the tree where my car was parked. Then he asked me if I had my keys and when I said “yes,” he said that was a good thing. I had a feeling that he was going to tell me what Officer “J” said about the car doors locking of their own accord and he did. He said that every time he would park over by the tree his doors would lock while he was working. I said my goodbyes to him, went back to my car, and found the doors locked. By the way, I did not have power door locks... they had somehow manually locked!

I decided to do some research into the story that the caretaker told me and also returned to take some pictures. I talked to several different people from around that area at one of the convenience stores and they all knew of the preacher who had hung himself. They believed the tree was haunted. From my conversations, I figured out an approximate time when this preacher probably hung himself and went to the library to see if I could find out anything more but I found nothing. I did find the obituary of the preacher but there was nothing else of great importance. I picked a night that Officer “B” would be working so I could find out who would be working in that area while I was taking more pictures. I arrived there around 9:00 pm and started taking pictures all around the area. At 9:30 pm, I moved my car under the tree and got out to take some more pictures. When I took a picture moving back toward my car, my horn beeped which made me jump.

It was around 10:00 pm when Officer “B” came by with another officer and they both parked their cars so that their headlights would shine on my car and the tree.

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I had taken one roll of 35 millimeter and 20 or 30 digital photos by the time that the officers arrived so I was thinking of calling it a night. We were all standing near my car looking at the digital camera screen to see if we could see anything when the battery went dead. I went to rewind the film in my 35 millimeter camera and the battery was dead also. I changed the batteries in the digital with a spare set of alkaline batteries and the camera turned on and then the batteries went dead. So, I called it a night and moved over to my car to find my doors locked. I unlocked them and started my car startled by the sound of my radio being turned up all the way and the fan turned on full speed. I quickly turned the radio down and fan off with both officers looking at me like I was crazy. They both just opened their car doors and had no changes to the settings inside their vehicles.

It took me two day before I had a chance to view the digital pictures and found that out of 25 attempts to take a picture I had only 5 pictures that were in focus or had enough light to see anything. All of these were pointing away from the tree. I had to get some more batteries for my 35 millimeter before I could get the film developed so it took a week to get the pictures back. The only thing that developed was unexplained reflections from the flash and some shadows that were different from the other shadows. There was nothing to jump up and down about so I decided to go back the next new moon and bring my night vision video camera and set it up on a tripod and so it could run while I took the other pictures.

There a bad storm before the new moon and the tree was damaged and removed from the property. I did not know this until I had returned to the church. So I decided to take the pictures anyway with no strange events occurring — my doors stayed unlocked and the film was devoid of anything unusual. It seemed that removing the tree from the parking lot stopped the unexplained events.

The tree could be considered as the object that had an attachment to it, which could make this an object haunting instead of a place type haunting. There is so much we do not understand about how or why ‘spirit’ attachments are made. It is important to look at the history of a new object that may have been brought into a house or area. This is why it is always important to understand ‘why’ a haunting is happening not just to prove it is happening!

## *Out in the Woods*

Nikolas Q. Paige

Many people have written their personal accounts of strange or even terrifying accounts of unexplained incidents in the woods. This is my account and although it isn't horrifying when I came to later understand it, it was life altering.

When I was twelve years old my parents moved from Pennsylvania to a small town in upstate Connecticut. It was a picturesque quaint place surrounded by plenty of wooded acreage with great places to hike. Being a friendly child I made friends easily and acquired two "besties" with whom I hung around with after school and on weekends. One of our favorite things to do was play in the woods and boys being boys we decided to build a clubhouse out in the denser part of the woods. We begged borrowed and stole what we could from our parents garages for both building materials and old items like lawn chairs with which to furnish our private place in progress.

It was a warmer than normal spring day when we all became aware of what would come to call "the watcher." I was up on a ladder hammering boards to the make shift roof when the wind picked up slightly and I thought I caught movement out of the corner of my eye. Lots of things move in the woods so I didn't think much of it until one of the other kids who was working on an in-ground fire pit about ten feet away stood up staring out into the distance said, "hey did you guys see that?"

I was too busy to get that involved but did mention that I saw something. Our other friend who was busy setting up a lunch spot had seen nothing. So, it went on like that every time we went out there – a wind would kick up momentarily and then some sort of movement. We were all starting to get a little unnerved by it all but managed to eventually get our clubhouse built. Besides nothing negative was happening to us.

About a month in to using the clubhouse our friend who never noticed anything parent's made a family vacation trip during spring break so it was just me and the other kid who had noticed what I did. We went out to the clubhouse and went in engaging looking at magazines and munching on some snacks when we were startled by the wind picking up at a more noticeable rate of speed.

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We stepped outside and about 100 feet from the clubhouse we saw a patch of trees moving around in that winds while everything else in the woods was still. We noticed a wavy type of movement – invisible but more like when you see heat radiating from a hot sidewalk in summer. It had no form or characteristics but it was huge maybe about 50 feet high but narrower in girth.

We stood there with our mouths gaping open and took off headed for the edge of the woods that bordered our parent's property. As we were running away, my friend started yelling, "It's chasing us!" I didn't want to look but I stopped and did and sure enough whatever it was, was hot on our trail but it only moved along the tree line like it was keeping a distance. We made it out and ran closer to the house and while my friend ran in the house I stopped to check out what was happening. The entity had stopped at the edge of the woods that bordered the property undulating and then seemed to disappear back into the woods.

We knew we weren't crazy. We had both seen it.

I had a good relationship with my dad who was an outdoorsman and told him about it. He actually went out to the clubhouse and checked out the area finding nothing. He also couldn't think of a natural or scientific reason for what we saw but at least he believed us. Later that day he took me into town to talk to a local indigenous person who was also not only a town historian about adept in Native American ways. We all sat down and I told him the story detail by detail.

When I was done he smiled and told me I had nothing to fear. What my friend and I had seen and experienced was an elemental who was only protecting the land especially since we had encroached upon its space by building a clubhouse. Later that evening him and my friend and me went out and performed a special ceremony honoring the land and letting the elemental know we meant no harm and asked if it would protect us while we were using the clubhouse.

We never had a problem after that although I did notice that every time we left the woods for the day the elemental would stop at the wood's edge as though it had escorted us out. The situation never changed all the years I lived in the house and even after I went to college and came home for a visit I could still see it wavering at the wood's edge. The clubhouse is long gone and was cleaned up properly out of respect for the land.

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One additional thing the local historian told me about myself is that my path would be different and I would break from usual traditions of life choice. I am a naturalist by lifestyle and an environmentalist by trade. Some I suppose would liken it to more of a Pagan lifestyle but it is a bit different and very rewarding. If I had never had the experience out in the woods I probably would have become a banker or accountant.

I am sure that elemental is pleased.



## *Forensic Astrology and the Paranormal*

Rev. Dr. Loni Haas

Can Astrology validate the paranormal? Forensic Astrology is a fascinating branch of astrology that deals in specialized detective work. The topics range from criminal investigation including ongoing and unsolved cases, to paranormal probes including hauntings and things such as alien abductions, to queries regarding specific cases involving Quantum physics such as time travel. Of course as with any type of enquiry, the most important single factor is to know where to start looking. Astrologers who specialize in forensics might use a variety of means, birth charts, event charts, and even location charts or horary charts to discern the truth of a matter.

In essence, the whole matter rests upon knowing where to look.

What astrological forces are at play during a paranormal or supernatural event? The first item to be discerned is the condition of the transiting Moon. Some paranormal investigators often consider the condition of the Moon along with all of their statistical and scientific data when investigating hauntings. The most common astrological conditions that show up regarding the Moon in forensics concern a Full Moon or a Void of Course Moon.

Astrologically speaking these are the conditions that represent an undisturbed open channel for energies. The Full Moon in particular represents a time of peak paranormal activity. The Void of course Moon often represents a period when time stands still. The aspects made by the Moon are very important. The next item is to look for an emphasis on the 1st and 7th houses basically representing the self and others or "me and them" by either heavy planetary load and/or aspects made to those house cusps. This always seems to show up prominently in cases of alien abduction.

Moon specs:

**NEW MOON:** (0-45 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies may be impulsive, and aggressive, wanting "attention." There is a "reach out and touch response" where investigators sometimes feel a brush, tickle, or pressure from unknown sources.

**BLACK MOON:** (Second NEW MOON in the course of a single calendar month): Highly occult energy that opens a portal to other dimensions including everything from the Faerie Kingdom to the Realm of the Ascended Masters as well as the spectral world.

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Altered states of awareness and higher consciousness are present.

**CRESCENT MOON:** (45-90 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies may seem to occur in "slow motion" because they are subject to a lack of momentum.

**FIRST QUARTER MOON:** (90-135 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies are "challenging" and looking for a "power-up."

**GIBBOUS MOON:** (135-180 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies are strong, moving toward full response and very perceivable.

**FULL MOON:** (180-135 degrees behind Sun): Occult energies are in "full" response and a variety of conditions are possible. The most powerful occult situations occur during the Full Moon.

**DISSEMINATING MOON:** (135-190 behind Sun): Occult energies are "perceivable" but may be hard to pin down.

**THIRD QUARTER MOON:** (90-45 degrees behind Sun): Occult energies will try to "alienate" or hide themselves from the environment and contact although they are still perceivable.

**BALSAMIC MOON:** (45-0 degrees behind Sun): Occult energies are not in full response and may show up erratically in a teasing fashion. A variety of conditions are possible.

**VOID OF COURSE MOON:** The Moon makes no aspects while in transition of changing signs. The occult energies are "open" to any conditions. A Void Of Course Moon is often active during restored scenes, residual play-backs or time warps.

**BLUE MOON:** (If a second Full Moon occurs in the same month): Troubled energies. Investigators will be confronted with full response energies but are very likely to have more than normal problems with equipment, team members and the spirits themselves!

By sign:

**ARIES:** Spirits can be temperamental, angry or boisterous such as in poltergeist attack. Physical harm can come to investigators.

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**LEO:** Spirit activity can be playful or pushy. Full spectromatic color or tones may be visible in manifestation. Restored scenes can play out like a motion picture.

**VIRGO:** Dark colored or indefinite specters. Investigators can experience sickness or nausea during investigations due to residual energies or warnings.

**LIBRA:** Good for investigation of haunted objects such as furniture, artwork or personal belongings.

**SCORPIO:** Lower realm entities or demonics can be present. Good for investigation of cemeteries and matters connected to the dead. Also good for investigation using psychometry.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Good for exploration of layered spiritual realms and getting to the truth of unsolved mysteries.

**CAPRICORN:** Good for investigation in churchyards, mortuaries, enclosed, underground or dark places and for contact with those who have recently passed over.

**AQUARIUS:** Good for detection results with high tech paranormal equipment. Investigators may experience a touch or brush sensation from spirits.

**PISCES:** Spiritual channels/floodgates are open - good for release of spirits to a higher realm and séances.

Further, the occult or water houses 4, 8 and 12 refer to the cycle of life, death and rebirth and they also refer to barriers that are broken down when human specters or entities enter the plane of the living. The 4th house concerns the circumstances surrounding death, the 8th house concerns the actual demise, and the 12th house concerns circumstances regarding a soul's afterlife other dimensional experience. When a soul or spirit does not pass through the Gate of Death in the 8th house and onward towards either a pleasant or hostile afterlife, it remains earthbound and chooses a location or several locations to occupy. This is when problems can occur and some professional paranormal help is needed.

Paranormal investigators, researchers, and demonologists fall under the rulership of the 8th house but individuals who are gifted in helping spirits "move on" fall under the rulership of the 12th house.

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Often times, these people are "naturals" when dealing with trauma concerning all facets of death. During a paranormal event the 8th and 12th houses are often triggered simultaneously. An example of this is as séance that goes awry or a poltergeist attack.

Since the planet Neptune represents intangibles, it too garners a close examination. Depending on the specifics of an event some of the other planets represent other possibilities. For example, if poltergeist activity is suspected one would look for an active Mars and for evil or demonic entities an active Pluto.

These guidelines will assist those who are taking an astrological view of either old or new cases as long as you have complete data - date, time and place. The more specific and accurate the better. Don't be upset if you don't find evidence in a chart. Consider that the circumstance may have been fraudulent all along.





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**Deidre O’Dwyer Lucasi** (*Benjamin*, pg. 43)

Deidre considers herself a collector and writer of stories (especially true scary tales) which she likes to compile and share. She is also an artist who dabbles in mixed medium painting and an experimental cook. She received a BA in Philosophy in 2006 and believes that philosophy is a good foundation for critical thinking and ethical reasoning. She worked for many years in Human Resources for a large corporation (which she prefers not to mention) and now works part time in real estate. She and her husband Ron recently moved to Indiana.

**Janine Lanz** (*The Owl Curse*, pg. 45)

Janine grew up in a haunted house occupied by a “friendly ghost.” As with many children who grew up in that type of environment, things supernatural seem perfectly normal to her. Janine lives with her husband and two dogs in that same family home. They are both paranormal investigators.

**John Holbrook, Holbrook PSI** (*Object Hauntings*, pg. 47)

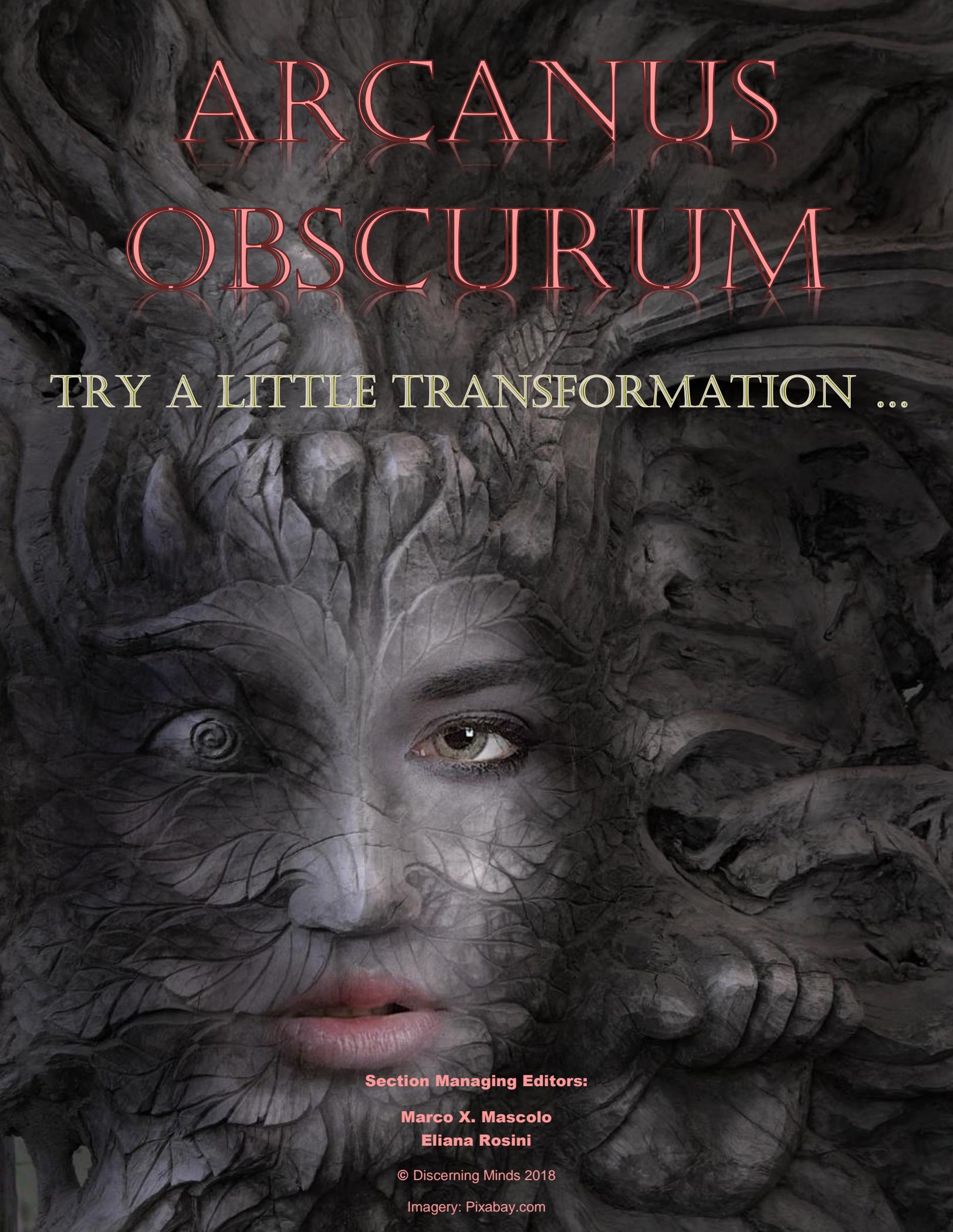
John has been a paranormal investigator for over 25 years. He holds a MS in parapsychic science. He is a highly gifted intuit and experienced spiritual counselor who specializes in crisis intervention including current life paranormal dramas and past life residual traumas. His friends tend to think of him as the “earth bound Michael” because he is always willing to help others overcome their fear of the darkness by showing them how to discern the truth of a matter.

**Nikolas Q. Paige** (*Out in the Woods*, pg. 51)

Nikolas is an environmentalist and entrepreneur who has dedicated his life to environmental sustainability. He is active in the green movement and also has an interest in hydroponic farming which he believes will solve many problems in the future. He is currently working towards helping farms using hydroponic methods become certified as organic. He says, “Currently, proponents of the hydroponic organic certification say that their farms can be more energy and water efficient than soil-based farms because they can reduce transportation costs by being built basically anywhere and that they can be just as sustainable and eco-friendly as any traditional farm.”

**Rev. Dr. Loni Haas** (*Forensic Astrology and the Paranormal*, pg. 54)

Loni Haas is a behavioral therapist, veteran exoteric and esoteric astrologer, research member of the American Federation of Astrologers (AFA), member of the National Council of Geocosmic Research (NCGR), as well as a lifetime member of the American Association of Behavioral Therapists. She is an ordained minister and Doctor of Divinity of the Universal Light Church of Cincinnati, Ohio where she is certified in several healing modalities



# ARCANUS OBSCURUM

TRY A LITTLE TRANSFORMATION ...

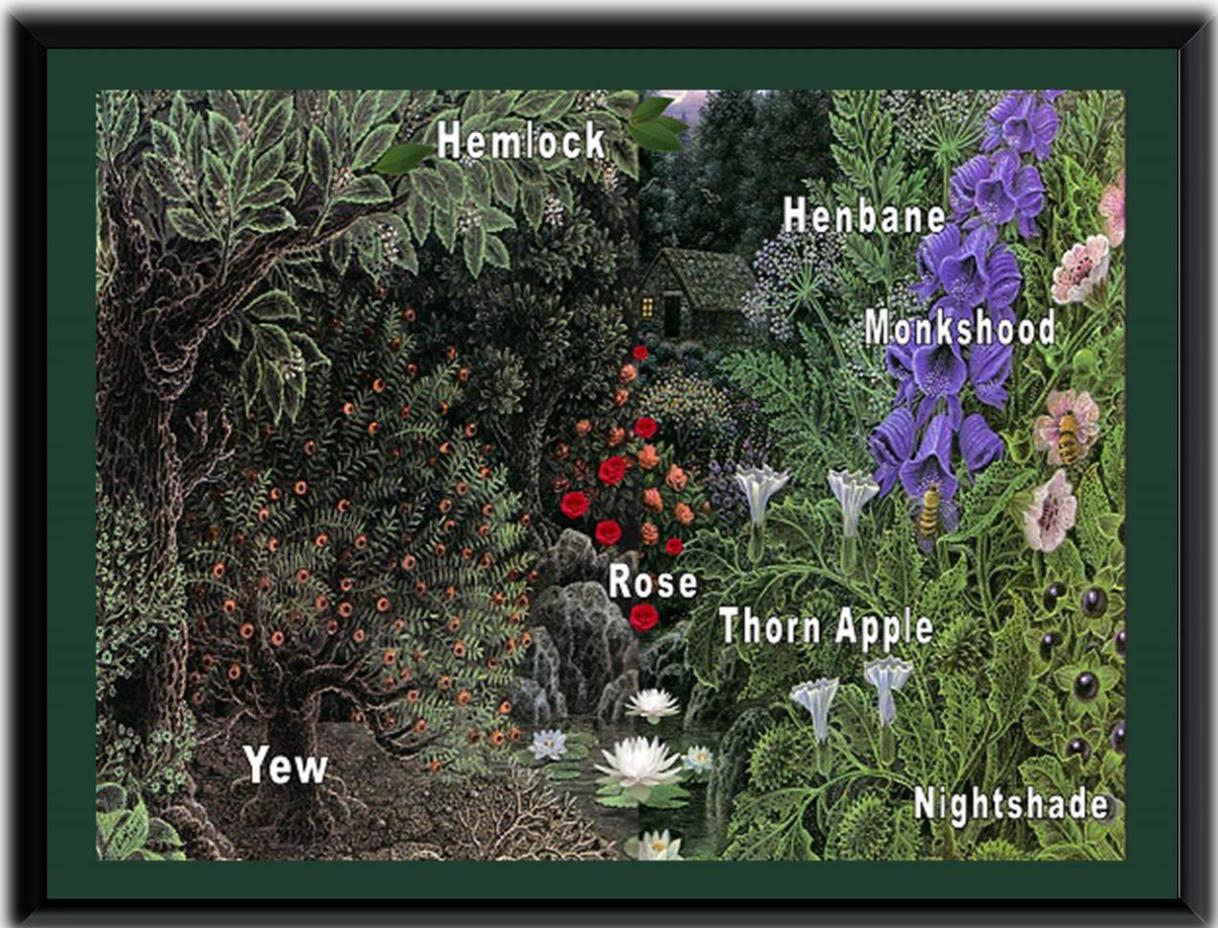
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### *A Witch's Garden – By the Light of the Moon*

Willow McFei

Narcotic fragrances born of noxious beauty fills the air and teases the senses as one approaches a witch's garden. If one could find their way through the tangled masses of thorns and barbs they would find themselves surrounded by lush and thick beauty that not only mesmerized but promised death.

No natural thing is essentially evil, but those who seek an evil outcome will seek an evil avenue. The garden of a witch who practices the dark arts embodies a perverse crop of nature and by the light of the Moon a witch gathers and harvests her crop with mal intent and the desire to harm, manipulate and control. Dark art witches are adept at mixing poisonous concoctions which fall under the rulership of the planets Saturn and Neptune as do the favored plants of this dark practitioner.

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Tinctures made from Deadly Nightshade with its large sweet blue-black berries brings about horrifying visions.

The Yew whose needles and red berries are so baneful that the ground the tree shades becomes sterile and cracked.

Monkshood, with lovely purple cowl-shaped flowers can bring about quick death.

Henbane with its ghostly gray and purple veined flowers and Thorn Apple with its white chalice shaped flowers can also be used as hallucinogens.

Hemlock whose precious and tiny white flowers ooze a fluid that can make the most virile man impotent.

The lovely rose provided a distillation used in romantic entrapment spells.

Even the bees that helped pollinate the garden provide wax for the witch's spell "images."



## ***The Test***

Alva Lennox

The uncanny ability we call clairvoyance takes many forms from a vague awareness of a distant event to a vivid revelation. The definition of clairvoyance is:

*Extra-sensory knowledge about material objects or events which is not obtained from another person's mind.*

In other words, it is not simply telepathy. For ordinary people, clairvoyance is most likely to occur in stressful situations or when people or places connected with them are in danger. Throughout history those with clairvoyance were sought out for other reasons usually having to do with power.

In ancient times clairvoyants were known as oracles and their visions were subject to as much scrutiny as they are today. Two and a half thousand years ago Croesus, the fabulously rich king of Lydia, conducted a fascinating psychic experiment to test the powers of seven oracles, six Greek and one Egyptian. According to the historian Herodotus, the king was becoming increasingly alarmed at the power of the Persians and decided to consult an oracle as to what course of action he should take.

But which one could he trust?

He decided to test them all.

He sent out seven messengers, one to each oracle, instructing them that on the hundredth day each should ask his oracle, "What is King Croesus, son of Alyattes, now doing?"

Their answers were to be written down and brought back to the King. Only one of the answers, the most accurate, remains on record.

The oracle at Delphi, the Pythoness, as she was called, induced her prophetic trances by sitting over a volcanic fault and inhaling the fumes while chewing mulberry leaves. The moment the Lydian messenger entered her sanctuary, she answered him, without even hearing his question, in verse:

*I can count the sands, and I can measure the ocean;*

*I have ears for the silent and know what the dumb man meaneth;*

*Lo! On my sense there striketh the smell of a shell-covered tortoise,*

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*Boiling now on a fire with the flesh of a lamb in a cauldron –  
Brass vessel below, and brass the cover above it.*

After sending his messengers to the oracles, the king set about deciding on what would be the most improbable thing anyone could conceive him of going. On the appointed day he took a lamb and a tortoise, cut them to pieces with his own hands, and boiled them together in a brass cauldron covered with a brass lid.

Not surprisingly, the clairvoyance of the oracle at Delphi got her the job as psychic advisor to the king.



By John Collier - Art Gallery of South Australia Website Webpage PictureOld source [1], Public Domain,  
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## ***Is There a Dark Brotherhood?***

Syd Alrruhi

In some esoteric circles it is believed that there is indeed an insidious Dark Brotherhood. Why wouldn't this be true? If we believe that there exists balance in the Universe then certainly all would not in reality be a bed of roses. Once in while a thorn must stick us all in the derriere. In my realm walking experiences I have seen essences of both light and dark with entities to boot – the lower astral polarity of which we all tend to believe as if our sanity relies on the 'good' defeating the 'evil'.

How can we equate this in mundane earth terms? Consider the following: They came from all walks of life ... those strange European practitioners, who said theirs was an acquired and forbidden knowledge learned in a school presumed to be in Spain. No one knew exactly where the school was but speculation placed it at Toledo or Salamanca. The term of course was five to seven years during which time no one ever saw the students until they re-emerged haggard and grim faced. The headmaster was unseen and unheard; yet, all knew who he was – the only stipulation for entry – a “certain agreement.”

The school could only be reached through a cavern accessed by winding staircases, by which they were led far into the Earth – sealed away from sunlight, sealed away from the outside world by heavy and impenetrable iron doors. Except for their own murmurings, they schooled in silence. Sustenance appeared by an unseen hand that catered sparsely to their bodily needs. No monetary fee was ever charged. They saw no schoolmaster or instructor. They heard no responses to their queries. The answers they sought and asked for each night in their evening contemplations appeared at dawn as letters that seemed illuminated on faded parchment pages or upon the cavern walls. No servants attended them.

Once “graduated” and re-entered into the world, they appeared to have no conscience or any need to show responsibility for their actions. Easily taking all the credit when things went well, they just as easily cast blame on others when it did not. Self-justification was their first and only response to criticism. Now let's consider a rehash from the old tome of *Ancient and Forbidden Knowledge* which provides an explanation to satisfy an earth mind.

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, organized magical lodges serving the powers of evil were formed. Known as the Brothers of the Shadow or Black Lodges, these organizations were said to be in opposition to the forces of spiritual evolution and to the Masters and the Great White Lodge. In the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor and traditions descending from it, the Black Lodges were associated with a Mysterious Dark Orb and its sinister hierarchy.

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The Dark Orb was said to be the place where souls that failed to make contact with their higher selves and so gain immortality, sink gradually into oblivion. It lies by location in the shadow of the Earth in space. There has been much earnest and studious thought given to what the Orb is or was. Some believe it to be tied to the Egyptian conception of spiritual fall and some believe it to be the Lost Orb of the Grecian mysteries while others insist it is the Moon in its connotation of the 8<sup>th</sup> sphere of death and dissolution. Yet there is another explanation. During the Golden and Silver Ages of the Earth's evolution, the Dark Orb was in the aphelion of its orbit. Its influence was scarcely felt but was minutely recognized as "animal force" and underdeveloped good. During the Copper and Iron Ages the orb gradually approached Earth and its dark shadows started to become perceptible yet remained bewildering. Around 1881 it passed its perihelion point and began to recede yet its dark clouds were not completely lifted from mankind's mental horizon, as it remains today - a disturbing factor of our planet's mental equilibrium.

The orb is said to possess a complete organization of its own. It is governed by defined laws the nature of which is exhibited in the lower animal nature manifested in mankind. The sphere is inhabited by numerous races of spiritual beings neither elemental nor elementary possessing high intellect and cunning. Originating from a dark center in the Astral Realm, "the dark council" of magical hierophants creates the Grand Delusion. They are the producers of human suffering and misery and the procurers of lies, deceit, fraud and religious and spiritual imposture. All these things are constantly reformulated to suit the temper of human times. Its influence is subtle psychological poison projected into the dimensional mental matrix of the human race; the occult current penetrating the inner recesses of the mind and accosting the Soul until finally in the heart of man is found an evil sliver of self-interest. The matter of energy distribution is inversive and used to distort and corrupt every arcane truth into theological dogma always with just enough "error" and doubt to make it acceptable to the logic of the human mind. The favored targeted prey is always those who are half informed of nature's mysteries. The old proverb ... "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing," aptly applies here.

Its greatest accomplishment was and is the distortion of theologies, belief systems and metaphysics throughout the world at large through the doctrines of reincarnation and karma and the afterlife which have been twisted. Not all of this was successful because there are certain natural absolutes that cannot be corrupted by the dark magic. *Man alone* possesses the elements of both life and death. The laws of life have been fully elucidated and the Soul obeys them. There is nothing to fear even though we all are experiencing these influences today via politics and world governments. It is necessary for the balance to be restored.

Pleasant Dreams and Realm Walking!

## ***Magic, Stars and a Touch of Alchemy***

Thomas Selinas-Cross

The medieval astrologers relied heavily on the seven known ancient planets and the Fixed Stars for divination. Magical virtues and influences were attributed to those seven planets and the stars and the ancients believed that they foretold the fate of all men. These entities heralded the fall of kingdoms and the rise of great leaders. Stones, crystals, herbs, and magic seals were also associated with the planets and the stars. Magic consisted mainly of the construction of alchemical talismans which were imbued with power and consecrated during a ceremony that was conducted under the appropriate stellar influences.

Take a moment to go back in time into the minds of the ancients and read about the fifteen prominent Fixed Stars that featured prominently in the destiny of all men.

### The Fixed Stars

**ALDEBARAN:** Bestows riches and honor. The image is that of a flying man. Rules ruby, carbuncle, milky thistle and “matry silva.”

**ALOGL:** Preserves the body and protects against witchcraft by reflecting spells. It gives success to petitions. The image is a decapitated human head. Rules the diamond, mugwort, black hellebore. Contemporary astrologers consider the influence of this star to be dangerous.

**ALGORAB:** Produces anger and back-biting as well as bad dreams. It was thought to house the power of summoning or driving away evil spirits. The image is a raven or snake. Rules black onyx, burr, quadragnus, comfrey, tongue of frog and henbane.

**ALPHECCA:** Promotes chastity and the goodwill of men. The image is a crowned man or a hen. Rules topaz, trefoil, ivy and rosemary.

**ANTARES:** Promotes understanding and memory and houses the power of bonding evil spirits. The image is a scorpion or a man dressed in a coat of mail. Rules amethyst, sardonyx, long aristolochy and saffron.

**ARCTURUS:** Cures fevers and acts as an astringent. The image is a wolf or a horse or a dancing man. Rules jasper and plantain.

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**PLEIADES:** Strengthens eyesight, reveals hidden things, and raises spirits. The image is a lamp or a virgin. Rules crystals, diacedon, fennel, quicksilver and frankincense.

**POLARIS:** Protects against evil spells and renders an individual secure when traveling. The image is a bull or calf or a pensive man. Rules lodestone, succor, tooth of the wolf and periwinkle.

**PROCYON:** Preserves health, brings favor from the gods, and dispels witchcraft. The image is a cock or three young maidens. Rules Achates, pennyroyal and marigold.

**REGULUS:** Grants temperance and honor. The image is a lion or cat or an honorable person. Rules granite, mastic and sallendine.

**SIRIUS:** Promotes goodwill among men and the airy spirits and grants honor. The image is a hound or a virgin. Rules beryl, savine, tongue of snake and dragonwort.

**SPICA:** Removes scarcity, grants riches, and prevents mischief. The image is a bird or a merchant. Rules emerald, trefoil and sage.

**WEGA:** Grants pride and magnanimity and power over beasts and devils. The image is a vulture or a traveler. Rules Chrysolite, fumitary and succory.



## ***Some Underlying Truths about Religion and Magic***

Baal Shem

Magic describes in a general way the ability to cause certain things to come about or manifest. It is normally divided into two types, white and black. Yet magic *itself* is neither good nor evil. In some ways it is like electricity – it can be used for light or to produce heat or snuff something out while remaining neutral.

The Ancients believed in both God and magic. They considered magic to have been taught to man by God and based in *The Law of Sympathy* and the *Law of Imitation*.

*The Law of Sympathy states: A mysterious link exists between anything in the world and any one of its parts, for example a tree and its leaves. This is a reinstatement of the general belief in Oneness of the Universe. This Law has two Rules. The Rule of Parts and the Rule of Contagion.*

*Rule of Parts: Even though something is no longer connected with something else which is its source (such as a leaf of a tree) one can affect the source by affecting the disconnected part. For example, in primitive magic as practiced in the Caribbean Islands you may have heard stories about someone who has been affected by magic via someone else using a lock of their hair and performing magical ceremonies over it.*

*Rule of Contagion: This rule states that an article that is found close to a person such as a ring that is always worn or a favorite piece of jewelry or other personal item, in time forms a connection to that person. Another person might affect the owner of said object by performing magic on it.*

*The Law of Limitation: Like the Law of Sympathy, states that because of the connection one can cause spirits to imitate certain acts and thereby produce phenomena. An example is an ancient ceremony for rainfall which consisted of pouring water over an unclothed virgin.*

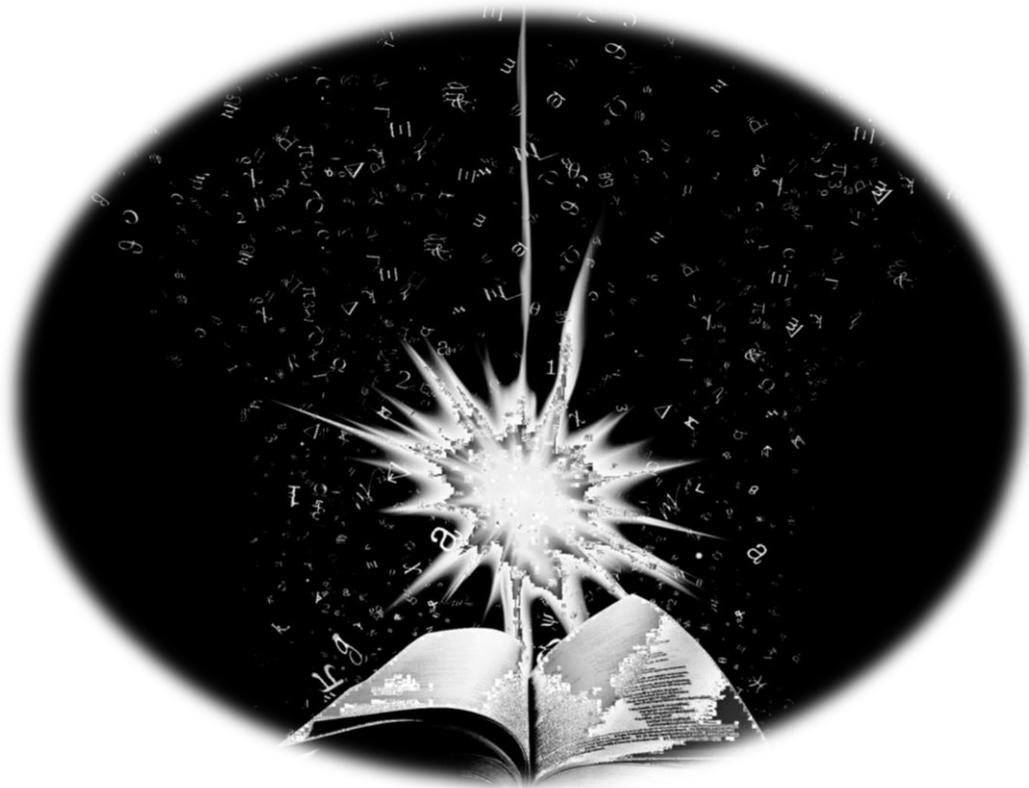
These early beliefs are hard for some to accept. But if we pause to look at our own religions, we might notice that in most cases there is some sort of minister or priest who we might believe has been endowed by God with spiritual power because of his or her relationship to God. We might wear medals inscribed with saints or carry tokens of what we consider holy symbols to keep us safe. Religion stems from the same source as magic. Each has two parts doctrine and dogma and both have ritual.

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Both religion and magic use the power of words – the right words to bring about aid of some sort. Sometimes these words are kept secret. In Christianity and Judaism for example, the name of God was kept a secret in the belief that if one knew the name of God then one could compel Him to do a certain bidding. Because of this belief, the word Jehovah was never written out in Jewish manuscripts. Religion and magic hold power in names. Most are usually related to ritual or life passages. Stop for a moment and consider what happens when you see a friend on the street and call his name. He stops and turns towards you. Have you not at that moment in time exerted control over him?

But what all these practices really suggest is the belief in the underlying factor of the spiritual nature of the Universe and how everything is connected. The problem is most are not aware the true meaning behind our beliefs whatever they might be.





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**Willow McFei** (*A Witch's Garden – By the Light of the Moon*, pg. 60)

Willow considers herself a White Witch who performs only good deeds. Much of her focus is on herbology and natural remedies and she hopes to open her own shop sometime this year. Willow hails from Vermont where she was born and raised. Her pseudonym of Willow McFei was given to her by her grandmother who is a folk healer and naturalist. Willow has three cats Winkin (white), Blinkin (black) and Nod (grey) who are her constant companions.

**Alva Lennox** (*The Test*, pg. 62)

Alva is a retired primary care teacher who enjoys researching and using natural herbal remedies. She is president of a book club that meets once a week and enjoys nature walks and teaching crafts. She has a great fondness for water and lives by lake which she feels fulfills her Cancerian needs. She would tell you it's been a long time coming.

**Syd Alruhi** (*Is There a Dark Brotherhood?*, pg. 64)

Syd Alruhi is the favorite pseudonym of Gerome Cass. If you ask him what the name means he won't tell you! Gerome considers himself a human dichotomy who has a foot in the mundane world and a foot in the other worldly realms. He believes all humans should confront the realms of transformative power that lie just outside of everyday consciousness without fear and trepidation and go for it. Gerome has several degrees including Ph.Ds. in psychology and physics which he refers to as being "piled higher and deeper" since there is so much more to be discovered outside of human designed constructs.

**Thomas Selinas-Cross** (*Magic, Stars and a Touch of Alchemy*, pg. 66)

Thomas is an astrologer and an astronomer. He is an animal advocate and spends his spare time volunteering at the local animal shelter in his hometown in the state of Washington. He also travels to different states to put on planetarium shows. An avid outdoorsman, Thomas enjoys camping and hiking and fishing. You can visit Thomas on the [www.lightforcenetwork.com](http://www.lightforcenetwork.com) where he serves as a proficient.

**Baal Shem** (*Some Underlying Truths about Religion and Magic*, pg. 68)

Baal is a Hebrew Shaman who prefers to remain anonymous. Baal has studied Jewish mysticism for many years and practices Jewish Shamanic Healing. His biggest challenge has been from those who question how being Jewish and being a Shaman are compatible. His answer is that the term Shaman denotes a type of person and not a set of beliefs and that it is perfectly fine to use Jewish means to effect changes in the spirit world for healing.

# *Sacred Sciences*

*I Believe ...*



**Section Managing Editor – Anna Drake Sydney**

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## *The Halls of Heaven*

Section Manager Choice courtesy of The Galaxy Express

The Runes constitute one of the most ancient alphabetic forms and means of divination. Norse folklore includes a unique brand of ASTROLOGY. Instead of the twelve Houses of Life which are represented in western tradition, Norse lore speaks of the “Twelve Halls of Heaven”, each of which is presided over by a Norse god or goddess and represented by three runestaves. Check each time period to see where your birthday is located and read the Rune Message connected your birthday in the designated magical palace as revealed to mankind by Odin the all-father.



June 21-July 20: Himinbjorg – Hall of the “Cliffs of Heaven”

This Hall is ruled by the Norse watcher god Heimdall and the main runic signifier for this Hall is Fehu (bordered by Dagaz & Uruz), the rune of fulfillment and abundance. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is Moss Agate. Security consciousness is the ruling force of this great Hall. The runestave Fehu carries the energy of wealth and power and the responsibility connected to worldly gain and the proper use of money and credit. Conservation and preservation of the financial status quo while sharing with others is the proper outward expression of Himinbjorg because to share one’s bounty provides spiritual balance. Without this balance, Fehu operates as a ‘murkstave’ and what was once bounty turns into lack on all levels and is often outwardly manifested as greed, envy, and jealousy. Fehu can also designate spiritual impoverishment despite financial or material prosperity. The Rune Fehu is one of the few staves whose essence is present in the English language today via the word “fee.”



July 21-Aug. 21:

Breidablikk – Hall of “Broad Gleaming”

This Hall is ruled by the solar god Baldr known as the “Beautiful.” The main runic signifier for this Hall is Thurisaz (bordered by Uruz & Ansuz), the rune of contemplation and counter defense.

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The gemstone signifier for this Hall is the Sapphire. This Hall is known as the “place without evil” and the ruling force of this palace is masculine energy in action. The runestave Thurisaz always demands transformation at the deepest levels of the Self so often times disruptive or even chaotic episodes manifest that upset the order of life. This is necessary to promote spiritual strength and fortitude. Thurisaz is connected to the ill-natured giants of ancient Norse lore who fought battles and created great opposition. In contemporary times, one might call upon his/her inner giant to buoy confidence during difficult or misfortunate times. When operating as a murkstave, Thurisaz is very unlucky and Saturnian in nature often connected to illness. Natives of this Hall will contemplate their inner natures on an ongoing basis throughout life. It can mean the difference between a bed of roses and a bed of thorns.



Aug.22-Sept. 22: Sokkvabekk - Hall of “Time and Events”

This Hall is ruled by the goddess Sága who governs the progression of time. The main runic signifier for this Hall is Raidho (bordered by Ansuz & Kano), the rune of flowing processes and momentum. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is Chrysoprase. The ruling force of this Hall is movement and processes both mundane and physical. The runestave Raidho concerns performance and the inherent energies of Raidho call for effectiveness carried out with principle and planning. The essence of Raidho brings about instances in life where one prospers because they are in the right place at the right time and accordingly, doing the right thing through timely and mindful communication. In ancient lore, Raidho means “wheel” and is thought to have literally represented journeys. Expanding upon this premise, in contemporary thought, Raidho represents life’s journey and stepping out to embrace what the world has to offer. Raidho is also connected to the rhythms of music and the graceful exercises of dance. Raidho operating as a murkstave is indicative of one who is trying to exert too much control and therefore breaking the natural fluidity of events. The expression “stuck in the mud” resonates with the murkstave Raidho.



Sept.23-Oct. 22: Glitner - Hall of “Splendor”

This Hall is ruled by the god Forsetti who governs justice and settlements connections and exchange.

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The main runic signifier for this Hall is Gebo (bordered by Kano & Wunjo), the rune of connections and exchange. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is Opal. In Norse lore, the Hall of Splendor is ornamental and made of silver and gold. According to the Anglo-Saxon, this Hall displays its “worth” which is the prerequisite for “giving.” The ruling force of this Hall is balance and equity based upon harmonious contractual exchange between people. The runestave Gebo designates unions and partnerships with awareness and respect for individuality and equality. In contemporary times, Gebo is often referenced as a “gift” and representative of the outcome between the donor and the recipient. Therefore Gebo calls upon the natives of this Hall to examine personal motivation regarding generosity. When you give, are you doing so expecting something in return? Do you give in exchange for gain, position, or respect? Are you a joyful receiver of gifts when they are presented to you? The ancients believed in equal hand giving where one part of the exchange did not overshadow the other. Gebo does not operate as a murkstave for it has no reverse position but the lower expression of Gebo keeps the energy in the mundane while the higher expression reveals the “immeasurable giving” to humanity.



Oct.23-Nov. 22:

Gladsheim – Hall of “Joyous Home”

This Hall is ruled by all of the gods and goddesses of the Aesir and Asyniur. The principal seat belongs to Odin. The main runic signifier is Hagalaz (bordered by Wunjo & Nauthiz), the rune of transformation and transmutation. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is Onyx. The ruling force of this Hall is higher consciousness and awakening. The runestave Hagalaz has a destructive reputation because it thrusts the power of evolution upon the thought processes and the unconscious mind. Disruption is the product of Hagalaz whether it is self-generated or caused by uncontrollable outside forces. In this respect this runestave is somewhat reminiscent of the Tower card in the Scared Tarot. Inner strength is the promise of Hagalaz and as each hurdle of life is surmounted, universal growth is provided. Hagalaz does not operate as a murkstave (inverted energy). It is cyclical in nature and is totally uncompromising by design always demonstrating how the patterns of past operate in the present. No pain no gain. No destruction no creation.

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Dec.21-Jan. 19:

Landvidi – Hall of the “White Land”

This Hall is ruled by the silent god Vidar and the main runic signifier for this Hall is Eihwaz (bordered by Jera & Perth), the rune of transition and regeneration. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is the Topaz. The ruling force of this Hall is renewal. According to legend, the runestave Eihwaz is synonymous with the Yew which was considered the tree of life and death - the great recycling plant of ancient Nordic perception. Natives of this Hall are born mystics who can foresee the consequences of their actions long before any action takes place. They are the great decision makers who garner good results because they can anticipate all the pros and cons of a deal and then move in to strike while the iron is hot. The discomforts of life are tolerated and understood as the promoters of growth and part of a larger cycle. Longevity is a gift of Eihwaz and this most likely possible because the natives of this Hall literally recycle themselves many times during one lifetime. Eihwaz does not operate as a murkstave but has the reputation of being known as the “death rune”. This might sound frightening to some but not to the natives of this Hall. They are used to standing astride both sides of the threshold.



Jan.20-Feb. 18: Valaheim - “Halls of Silver”

This Hall is ruled by the god Vali who later was known as the Christian St. Valentine. The main runic signifier for this Hall is Algiz (bordered by Perth & Sowelu), the rune of protection and safeguarding. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is Amethyst. This Hall has the spirit of the New Age for it is written in the myth of Ragnarök that Vali brings in a new era after the other gods are slain. Along with the new world arose the need for human protection that could only come from otherworldly sources. The runestave Algiz always provided energy that was sought after by the ancients because it is a rune of personal protection not only on the physical level but also on the psychic level. It has the ability to repel all evil by encompassing an individual with a spiritual shield. Natives of this Hall are known as visionary seekers who look beyond the trappings of mundane life. They strive for the divine knowing that they cannot fail.

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Operating as a murkstave, Algiz signals paranoia because one has not taken the time to examine the source of what is threatening and the active role one plays in promoting vulnerability due to old behavioral patterns.



**Feb.19-March 20:**

Noatun – Hall of “Ship Haven”

This Hall is ruled by the god Njord the maritime deity. The main runic signifier for this Hall is Teiwaz (bordered by Sowelu & Berkana), the rune of courage and discrimination. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is Coral. The ruling energies of this Hall are dedication, perseverance, and patience – all qualities of the true Spiritual Warrior. The runestave Teiwaz calls for personal sacrifice coupled with action. The natives of this Hall are called upon to embrace life’s issues whether they are personal, social, or worldly with courage and honor. Principles and ethics are paramount and no promise should be left unfulfilled. The conviction to not only speak but to live one’s truth is difficult but necessary for the natives of this Hall. Equally difficult is picking one’s battles for the natives of this Hall always feel they have something to prove. Operating as a murkstave, Teiwaz signals a misappropriation of energy. Natives can find themselves caught up in an endless string of useless conflicts and lost causes all of which do nothing more than zap the spirit. Navigating these rough waters of life with balance and resolution is the challenge for those who resonate with this Hall.



**March21-April 20:**

Bilskirnir – Hall of “Lightning”

This Hall is ruled by the great god Thor, the deity of thunder and lightning and strength and defense. The main runic signifier is Ehwaz (bordered by Berkana & Mannaz), the rune of progress and movement. The gemstone signifiers for this Hall are Calcite and Malachite. Faith and trust are the ruling forces of this great Hall. Natives of this Hall tend to be movers and shakers with clear goals and preset limits that defy exploitation. The runestave Ehwaz means “horse” and this animal was not only the most important means of travel to ancient people but was also considered a sacred animal

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Courtesy of the horse, people were able to get about from one place to another and thus experience a wider world full of opportunities. Partnerships were struck with no more than a handshake and a belief and trust in mutual benefit. The higher expression of Ehwaz designates what belongs to one by Divine right and Divine Will. Sharing what has been gained by profit is a requirement of Ehwaz. Operating as a murkstave, Ehwaz causes stagnation and produces questionable boundaries between people particularly if serious intention to follow through is lacking by one or both parties. Natives of this Hall are used to getting “back up in the saddle” when they are “thrown off” by the misadventures of life.



**April 21–May 20:**

Thrymheim – Hall of the “Noisy Place”

This Hall is ruled by the giant Thiazzi and his daughter Skadi, the destroyer. The main runic signifier is Laguz (bordered by Mannaz & Inguz), the rune of flow and intuition. The gemstone signifier is the Pearl. The forces at work in this great Hall encompass self-discovery as it is connected to the ebb and flow of the tides of life. This is the palace of intuition where the individual is asked to “feel” without ego evaluation. The runestave Laguz literally represents water and the lunar side of the Self. Attuning to one’s own rhythms is a directive of this Hall and the runestave Laguz. From this realignment with the Self, natives of this Hall find it easier to organize their mundane lives. Examination of the values system and what constitutes “true” value is an ongoing process in the lives of the natives of Thrymheim. A sense of personal value is not always found by what can be possessed materially in the mundane world. Under the influence of Laguz, satisfaction is more likely found through fulfillment of the emotional “needs” rather than the ego “desires.” As a murkstave, Laguz is a direct indicator of failure because of excessive material overreach and lack associated with refusing to draw upon the wisdom inherent in one’s own intuition.



**May 21–June 20:**

Sessrumnir Folkvagner - Hall of “Field Folk”

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This Hall is ruled by the goddess Freyja, the “Lady” of the first runic Aett and one of the main deities of the Vanir. Freyja is the goddess of love and magical knowledge, ruler of the Earth and the trees and all of the forest animals. The main runic signifier of this Hall is Othila (bordered by Inguz & Dagaz), the rune of acquisition and affirmation. The gemstone signifier for this Hall is the Ruby. The ruling force of this Hall encompasses ancestral heritage, and real property. The runestave Othila translates to “own Earth” or “own Land.” As a runestave, Othila operates to protect the status quo while preserving individual rights and what is passed down through natural heritage. In the spiritual sense, Othila represents feeling “at home” with one Self while finding one’s “place” in the world at large. Othila also represents one’s innate talents or genetically inherited gifts that are a birthright. These talents and gifts are placed at one’s disposal to be used or abused during the current lifetime. Othila is thought to be a very grounding rune however, when it operates as a murkstave, feelings of being “left out” or alienated are common. At these times, it is wise to stop and find one’s center so the spirit can be rebalanced. Natives of this Hall know that “home” is not just a place where you “hang your hat.”

“GUD BLESSI THIG... God Bless You”



## *A Glimpse Of Cosmobiological Thought ...*

Thomas Selinas-Cross

Cosmobiology is a discipline concerned with the correlation between the Cosmos and all organic life and the effects of cosmic rhythms and stellar motion on mankind. Man's character disposition, innate knowledge and all possible turns of fate are a mirror reflection of the Cosmos ... the macrocosm in the microcosm ...

We are all cells of a greater whole ... why wouldn't the Cosmos and ALL of its information be imprinted in us? Do we actually learn or simply remember?

Man's quest to understand himself with the complexity of the cosmos in reality predates the earliest Babylonian/Sumerian illumination. From the time the first human contemplated his environment his mind has been soul-driven on the quest for understanding him-Self. Like most gallant searches, we simply have not found the physical evidence for it to speak about it with any clarity. The cell memory and the Soul memory knows that civilizations have come and gone without leaving any traces. Values of good or evil, angel or demon, religious underpinnings of any kind, in truth, have nothing whatsoever with that original quest. That quest is the quest of the Soul and the proverbial "why am I here?"

There is a new awakening which is expanding and transforming the minds and hearts of a great multitude of humanity. It can be considered an evolutionary current of the collective experience that will bring forth a radical turn in orientation. Students and teachers of astrology will be confronted with certain dynamics of human psychology and human inter-relationships that no longer satisfy what we truly need to know. Our 2D vision will no longer suffice as we are pulled into a holographic program of understanding and re-understanding. But in essence this is not new but very, very old. The astrology of the Chaldeans and even the ancient Hebrews was steeped in metaphysics and the interpretation of Cosmic Laws. We would be fools to think that these interpretations belonged to them, for their interpretations were based upon the foundation of something much more ancient. Something that transcends what we identify as "time" itself.

Today there is a great divide between Astronomy and Astrology. Why should that be? Could this statement be true?

"Astronomy is actually Astrology that has had its Soul removed."

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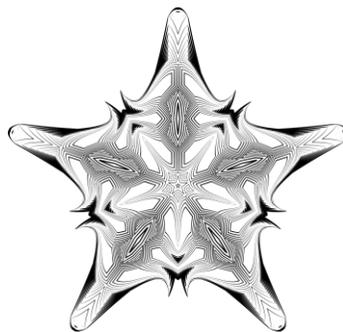
Esoteric knowledge of astrology is largely attributed to far removed sources or other-worldly beings such as Dwjhal Khul, for example, who allegedly gave certain information of cosmobiological significance via channeling to Alice Bailey. We can accept that or poo-poo it. We can look at it this way, either Alice had one hell of an imagination OR she had in fact tapped into something, not necessarily someone, very ancient. Perhaps something that was always there. Imprinted in her being and ready for release.

When something comes very easily to a person, let's say a foreign language, OR they just understand it without ever having studied it, it means they have had contact with that language prior to incarnating and are currently releasing that ability. Where did that ability come from? If we go into the modern study of the Seven Rays and calculate a person's Rays, we would see that a person who carries a strong 7th Ray influence (arcane knowledge of all time and non-time) would most likely make a good astrologer, alchemist or high magician. Why? Because the imprint is there. Who imprinted this? The Soul. Who created the Soul? What we call Source, the Divine, God, the Ultra Natural or an "accident" depending on your flavor du jour and current orientation. We are all cells of a greater whole ... why wouldn't the Cosmos and ALL of its information be imprinted in us?

Yet we continue to speculate through our current level of understanding shaped by exposure and beliefs - Perhaps it is aliens, inter-dimensionals, ascended masters and anything else we can identify by a structured specific title? OR is it ... Just plain evolution of the human mind? No to each.

**It is merely the predisposition, the blueprinting of the Cosmos that resides in each man in his cell and Soul memory and is always there and always will be there.**

He will recognize it and the complexity of the Cosmos bit by bit when he is ready just as he did at the beginning of it all.



## *Metaphysics without God - Is there a Purpose?*

Brenda Staab

Metaphysics is a chosen path for me. Once I came to realize the vast and broad application I began to absorb as much of metaphysics as I could find. Does that mean I believe everything that comes across my path metaphysically? No, but I have the option to discern and digest to see what resonates with me. I absolutely love the journey, the exploration and the discovery of these exciting phenomena we call Metaphysics and Spirituality. With experiences one after the other I have not been disappointed yet. The most interesting people have crossed my paths that are in as deep a spiritual search as I am.

**METAPHYSICS TO ME IS THE RE-DISCOVERY OF GOD AND SPIRITUALITY PERTAINING TO ME PERSONALLY, YOU INDIVIDUALLY AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.**

When we study God and Spirituality one usually thinks of organized religion. And for the majority of folks that thought is correct. I have absolutely no beef or issue with anyone who wishes to pursue organized religion in order to move closer to God. Whatever gets you there, power to ya!!

I spent many Sundays and Wednesdays attending churches of organized religion. I must say as a younger person the thought of Godly rejection helped keep me from ruining my life. I thank God and His servants for keeping faith in me.

As I grew older and my children grew up, I moved away from God (note: He did not move away from me). I was looking for answers that I could not find within a church of organized religion. Not because there was a problem within the church, there was a problem within ME! After a while I just stopped looking.

As I have come to know, God never gives up on us and I am glad to say I am no exception. All my life I have had metaphysical and spiritual experiences. I just chalked it up to my mistaking the situation or I just plain ignored the beautiful and fascinating phenomena that God was sending my way.

Allow me to tell you of the vision that smacked me between the eyes which caused me to not only acknowledge these phenomena but to dedicate my life to pursuing, helping and teaching others about these talents we All have and most importantly: They Are All God Given.

December 19, 2000 my husband and I flew to Manhattan for a day trip of sightseeing and fun together. Our first stop The Twin Towers.

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We took the subway and came up into the Tower from deep below. As we made our way to the atrium, we bought tickets to visit the very top of the Tower. Much to my dismay there before us was this labyrinth like queue with well over 100 visitors already in line. It was about 9:40 am on this chilly Dec. morning. Not a cloud in the bluest sky I had ever seen and made a mental note of. The holiday tourists were beginning to warm up from the cold. And while creeping through the line, I was no different. I began to peel the warm layers of clothing away. Time felt as if it had come to a halt. We didn't seem to be getting anywhere deep within this sea of people. In the center of this human herd I found there was no relief from the exhaustive futile exercise of trying to not make eye contact with anyone. Like in an overcrowded elevator, you can only look at your shoes or up toward the ceiling. Which is where I found the freshest air and thus stood peering up at the oddly very vertical long windows which stood between equally tall columns of concrete which made up the four structural walls of the Tower.

The sun was streaming in. As I tried to take in the view without becoming bored I found myself asking God for relief and that I just did not want to be there at all. I felt a blind panic begin to churn within me - UNFOUNDED and completely UNEXPECTED. I could not reason my way out of it. Looking up I remember blinking slowly then upon the opening of my eyes I saw an airplane fly straight into this building. I saw from the tip of the plane to just past the left wing and there were flames from underneath the plane. I didn't actually see movement, but freeze frames, still photos. My eyes were open, but I instinctively peeled my eyelids open as wide as they could possible go. I began a series of 90 degree snapping turns, each with the same objective, find the airplane and get the hell out of the way!!!

Much to my absolute astonishment, there was no airplane. I found myself staring into the faces of the very people I had thought I wanted to get away from. And they were staring BACK! As they inched away from me, I knew I could not stay within the four walls of this Tower any longer. I gave up thinking I had lost it... I had!

Must run, must get out, must get away as fast as I can were my only thoughts. I managed to keep it together until the queue moved us closer to the boundary rope and without saying a word to my husband about what I had just experienced we looked at each other and knew it was our only chance. We took it! Under the rope we went, grabbed hands and began to run toward the subway. Giving our tickets to the first people we saw who were heading in the direction we had just come from. We must have caught the eye of the security - a uniformed man came after us shouting we could get a refund if we would just step over there and... No thanks! Gladly losing the \$20 or \$30 dollar cost of the tickets, we were getting nearer the exit and not soon enough. My sense of dread and panic were beginning to subside, but not fully until we were outside and could drag in lungs full of fresh air.

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My husband informs me the next stop on our self-guided tour was Battery Park and my very first view of Lady Liberty in person!! Sadly that was another thing I gave up and actually refused to go south at all. I could not make my feet go one inch in that direction. So moving north, we then went on to our next intended tourist stop.

I began to feel normal and relieved... never telling my husband of the vision. It just felt good to forget my panic and the scene I didn't understand in the Tower that fateful day completely and for nearly exactly nine months.

That is until Sept. 11, 2001 at 9:45 am as I sat in stunned horrified silence while not being able to move my eyes from the TV. It all came back, in rushing high definition detail!

While this makes a good story, it's all true. Yes, I questioned my memory until it slowly dawned on me that my vision had been from a perspective the reporters and journalists could not have depicted... My vision was from the **INSIDE** of the building looking up and out! I have never questioned that vision again.

Are such visions God given for a specific purpose to bring us closer to God? In my humble opinion metaphysics is God's way of reaching those of us who need a way to stay in touch, learn and thrive while having the limits removed and availability to have some of those unanswerable questions answered. Any other use of metaphysical gifts is of an egotistical, power trip nature. Metaphysics without God will only bring Godlessness into your life. And it is a choice you can make either consciously or by default. You are never in a static/stand still relationship with God. You are either getting closer to or moving away from Him.

Metaphysics is a tool to be studied, practiced and used to ensure your success at learning the lessons you came to Earth to learn in this lifetime. God always gives us everything we need to be successful. It is your job to find the right tool for the right job; all tools are available and waiting...

I thank God for the opportunities He has given me. I hope you all find and use your tools and opportunities wisely and with pure intent.



## *Psychic Prey*

Desiree Lucente

As careful as most spiritual people tend to be, we can still fall prey to unscrupulous psychics who have selfish desires for intruding upon the personal space of others.

A good psychic has the ability to tune in on someone anytime, anywhere, for any reason, just as a psychologist can probably spot and identify psychopathic behavior or someone who is really depressed. However, an *ethical psychic*, or *one who serves the light*, would not do such a thing without your express permission. *An unethical psychic, or one who serves the dark, would not seek permission, instead violating your privacy to serve their own ego needs or whims.*

Psychic harassment such as trying to read the Energy Signature of another individual, their aura, or their emotional MO without permission can carry a heavy price for the perpetrator in the Karma department. There is no accidental “read” ... no oops! It is a deliberate act. Someone’s energy does not come up and smack you in the face – it requires a calculated effort (btw- it is also a definitive tool used by psychic vampires). Any so called psychic person who tells you otherwise ... “it just happens” ... or ... “I cannot be fooled” ... is most likely a fraud or at the very least an egotist. The signature can also be easily misread – a woman who carries heavy masculine energy can be mistaken for a man and vice versa.

Then there is the emotional factor. The Perception-Deception. We are all emotional beings and we have an emotional filter through which psychic input runs. Here is where many, many mistakes are made because one’s emotions and memory cells can produce an inaccurate read. A “familiar” energy may not be a familiar energy at all – it merely feels familiar because it has run through an emotional program like a mix and match game ... let’s match up what seems to be correct.

People who suffer from psychological rejection based on early conditioning are at the top of the list for the mix and match game. They have a strong need to be right, noticed and even better applauded for their so-called accuracy. In some cases, even though a person may not be able to deliberately hide their signature, they can at times be so detached the signature cannot be read accurately if at all. According to psychic Erin Pavlova, “I’ve had experiences where I can’t read someone’s emotions, energy, or anything because they themselves are dissociated from their own emotions and minds. It’s like Troi trying to read Data. I get nothing.”

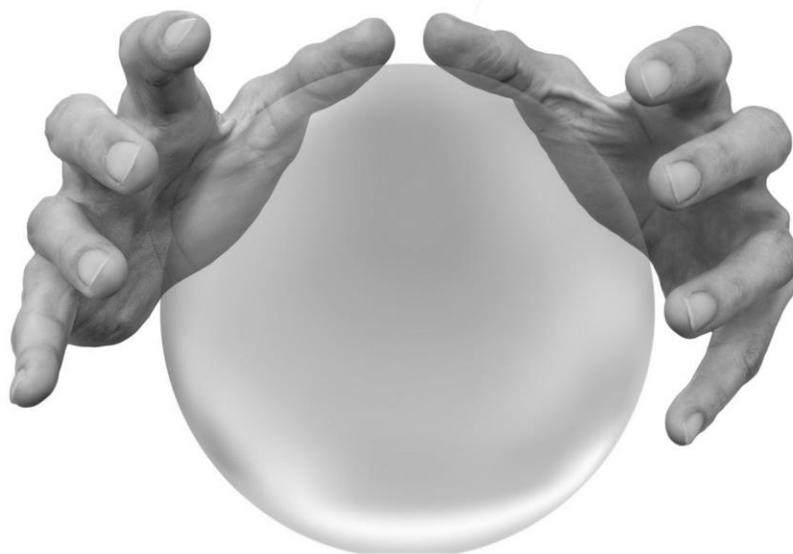
Maybe that’s a good thing.

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An individual should always protect themselves from someone they know or feel is trying to invade them. Psychic Erin Pavlova states, "... you can shield your energy from others using psychic self-defense techniques. Literally imagine a wall or shield between you and the psychic. Push out with your thoughts or energy and say, 'Keep your probe to yourself!'" You can also create your own combinations of energy that you project as you manifest through your emotions, your thoughts, your physical feelings, all of your senses, inner and outer.

There are many working elements to you, and all of these are expressed through energy so go ahead and recalibrate yourself.



## *Interview with a Knights Templar Commander*

Stephen Briggs

A talk with Commander William St. Thomas (nee Dargin) for a first-hand account of his take on the Knights Templar down through the ages and throughout history. His views and observations and metaphysics are fascinating and enlightening.

### Q: Exactly what is the Knights Templar?

A: Templar originally was a monk that was ordained and authorized by the church to go to war. The Order was originally founded in the late 900's somewhere around 993 by nine French Knights who decided to go to Jerusalem. Since they were not the first born of their families, by law, they could not inherit the property of their fathers. This went to the first born after many years of living and working in Jerusalem. They were able to appeal to one of the leading theologians of their time, Bernard of Clairvaux. He in turn wrote to the Pope and published their cause. Shortly afterwards the Pope took up their cause and issued a charter for them to become part of the Catholic Church

### Q: What is required of a member and who can join?

A: A core rule is that a member must participate, and that can take on many different forms. There is usually a tithe for joining. Sharing an interest with a Templar, and expressing a desire is usually a good place to start. They have very broad guidelines about one's faith.

### Q: Tell us how you became involved and how long you have been a member.

A: I came to the Templars in a very strange way. In the past, I took a sabbatical and raised a million dollars. It was for four different charities. I also skied with the National Ski Patrol for almost seven years and did a lot of pro bono work. One of my good friend's husbands was a national officer in the Templars. We became friends and over the course of about six months, I decided I would like be part of this organization. I was offered a commission of sorts, in the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville. The Church was done in Egyptian Revival. I was knighted. Four years later, I was elevated to Knight Commander.

### Q: How long has the Knights Templar been in existence and why and how was it founded?

A: It was founded around 993 and was finally recognized by the Church around 1050.

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The order rose to become one the world's most dominant forces of its time until its demise in 1303. The original orders of sorts were to protect pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem. In that process, they became a powerful political and cultural force in the region. Later on, with respect of the Templars, many of the leaders in that part of the world actually had diplomatic relations with the Templars. It is said that much of the Eastern philosophy, mathematics, science, astronomy and culture (not to mention chess) came to Europe by way of the Templars.

Q: What does Friday the 13th mean to the Templars?

A: It was the day, by way of the Vatican, that the Templars ceased to exist as the order was founded. Although many knights were seized, many were quietly let go. Many escaped and just melted into other Christian Orders of the time. The reason the Templars were treated this way is because Phillip the Fair (French King of the time) was very indebted to the Templars. He devised a plan to seize all their wealth and cancel his debts.

He manipulated the process for the selection of the pope. The current pope, however, refused to order the destruction of the Templars. The pope then died under mysterious circumstances. Once the King had his puppet on the throne of Saint Peter... the process was begun. Ultimately, the action failed. No monies or treasure were ever seized. It was said that on the night of April 12th, the Templar fleet was docked in southern France. The next morning every ship was gone

To this day, Friday the 13th is considered unlucky, and for good reason.

Q: Why did they take a vow of poverty?

A: Well, in the beginning I guess this was pretty easy when you don't have any money. What is the difference? All monks took very similar vows at that time. Later, although they didn't "have" any money, they wheeled such power and influence that they really didn't need money

Q: Did the Knight Templar believe Jesus had descendants?

A: This is a loaded question. As an Order of the Templars, we have no official stance as to the descendants of Christ. Although, many within the order have their own ideas. It is not doctrine, and that is a very important distinction. There are scads of DVD's out there with every slant, yet in the end, they have no proof. Heck, who needs that these days? You get a good spin-doctor and you are in business.

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Q: Describe the Seal of the Knights Templar.

A: Which one? Over the past one thousand years there has been four or five. The most common one is the version most people see today of the two knights riding a pie-bald horse. This is called a paint today. Back then, they were considered very poor horses, basically your view of the horse world.

Q: How did the Knights Templar manage to amass a financial empire and how did they become Europe's main religious order?

A: On this question you have a couple of inferences already in play. First question basically is that in their battles around the Middle East they amassed quite a war chest. Because they became so popular, everyone wanted to be part of them. So they handed over their Estates even back in Europe! Now this was a two-edge sword that meant they didn't have to pay taxes on any of the property they turned over to the Templars. In effect, it became property of the church and the Templars paid a tithe to Rome. It kept everyone happy - call it the first IRS deduction!

Q: How did they get into banking, and why did they get so involved in banking?

A: They really didn't start in banking. They were more into the traveler's checks of the day. They would give the traveler an encoded document and wherever the traveler went he could present that document to the Templars and they would pay on the document. This was safest way to travel, even back then. Once that hit its zenith, imagine what they were going to do with all this money? That's when they got into the loaning of money banking. It is said that the Templars held "notes" on every King or Queen in Europe!

Q: Is it a fact that the Pope in the 1300's disbanded the organization? Tell us about this.

A: Disbanded is not really the right word. They had them arrested for blasphemy and many of them were tortured mercilessly by the inquisition.

Funny, the law was that the torturers couldn't draw blood with a cut, or stab, yet they would burn them, rack them, and hang them until they dislocated their shoulders. I imagine if I were there, I would have said anything they wanted to hear. And you can imagine what information they would get i.e. tell me what you want me to say.

I mentioned the specifics of the day. Yet here is a neat little story. The Grand Master (Read General) of the Templars at that time was Jacques DeMolay, an older man, not in the best of health. He was arrested and threatened with everything they were doing to his other knights.

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He caved in and said he would confess. So the King of France and the Pope had him dragged to Notre Dame in Paris and in front of the whole of Paris he was to confess.

When they dragged him in front of everyone in Paris, he actually recanted his story, and stated that they and the order were innocent of all the charges. That so incensed the King and Pope that he was taken back to Notre Dame and with four other knights burned at the stake. During this event, Jacques DeMolay cried out that both the King and Pope would stand with him before God to settle the account of their treachery. Within a year, the Pope died and the King was killed in a hunting accident.

Before I begin, I want to share some information that will help you understand the history and the savagery of the times...

First, there has NEVER publicly been a historical document presented from the time of the Templars. Nothing, nada, so everything I will tell you comes at least second hand if not third hand. The Catholic Church colored much of what you will read in many ways. Sadly as an institution that rises...

Many things that are not for the highest and best good take place... In the case of the Vatican... I would direct you to some reading... The Reign of the Ten Popes... There is nothing that has happened on the streets which hasn't happened inside the Vatican, (including but not limited to Popes being assassinated.)

The Templars today do many things and often times are decentralized in their operation. The Name itself gives rise to the tensions. In the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, the word Sovereign is a big clue... In the Past, the Order was under the control or authority of a Sovereign... Today that falls to the European Royalty. Dutch, German (the Tectonic knights), and the Northern Europeans - Sweden. At one time the Templars were under the authority of the Pope... The Bishop of Rome... and as such the Templars were outside the authority of the other Monarchs of Europe. Just imagine a segment of the U.S. population that didn't pay taxes, report or even recognize the authority of the laws of the land. Now also realize as they came to power much land and wealth were given over to the Templars. So while having this very independent group within your borders, your tax base was forever shrinking because it was being handed to the Templars.

The Pope loved this. The kings despised it. What does this all mean?

Today, the order although international is very careful not to force members into relationships that might compromise their national allegiances, a very important distinction.

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Today, as a visitor, you can attend a Templar function. Throughout history, no outsiders were ever allowed. Who are these people? The order cuts across every national boundary, Generals, Diplomats, and Titans of business.

Many spring from the military from where the order began. There have been Medal of Honor winners, royalty, and everyone in between. Like the Templars of old, the organization is built with a very deep and broad foundation of talent and experience.

**Q: Is there a connection between Knights Templar and Free Masonry?**

**A:** Great Question. Well, to answer that I will share this. Many organizations when beginning have a tendency to pull mythology from history. I believe a 33-degree Mason and a Knights Templar have identical symbology. The answer, plainly to your question is yes. The qualifier is that through historical convergence, is it a matter of convenience? The masons trace their history back to the building of the pyramids. Can they prove that link? Not to a certainty, although many believe it. Could the Templars have used Masons? Very much so. Building castles, fortress and infrastructure, Masons (Historical Builders) were used. Now, were they free Masons? That is a question that I don't think can be answered to the degree most people would like. There are Templars who are Masons, and Masons who are Templars.

**Q: Are Templars today a branch of Free Masonry?**

**A:** See the question above. The simple answer is no. The Templars as an organization are divided into national legions as such. There are Masons within the organization yet the organization is not being controlled through the Masons. The Templars themselves would not appreciate such a statement.

**Q: Is it true the Templars had commandeers in every state and at least 900 Castles?**

**A:** There are two ways to answer that question. For the first, I want you to think of the Templars as the First multi-national corporation, much like IBM. Much of their wealth was given to them from Europe or was taken as Spoils of War. Although in ancient times, from around 1050-1303, Templars were found all over Europe and eastward toward the Middle East, and to the north, Scandinavia. Their real power was the seat of Rome, the Vatican. The church in one way or another was the leading influence of that time; this was both good and bad. One other VERY important fact about the Templars, they were much like the military today. They had architects, builders, sailors, bankers, craftsman, masons, and just about anyone and everyone you could think of. After its founding in the very late 900's, the organization grew to include the best and brightest of its time.

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Today, the Templars are in almost every nation. Much of the time, they work behind the scenes. They do charitable work, raise money for many different Christian organizations in the Holy Land, and have been instrumental in shipping huge quantities of school supplies to Afghanistan. They are in the process, if not already official observers at the UN and many times they are working closely across religious lines to open up dialogue between many warring factions.

Q: Can you tell us a little about the secret societies? The Skull and Cross bones have been known to have Masonic connections.

A: Oh, I give a four hour lecture on this stuff. Before I go any deeper here, I think we have to put Free Masonry in a different light. Most of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Most of the best leaders, most influential people at the birth of the nation were Masons. To them Free Masonry was more about free thought, new ideas, and radical concepts called democracy. It didn't have the dark side that is portrayed today.

Heck, most of the people who broke with the European model of culture would have been labeled a Mason in their time.

It's funny you bring up these two organizations. Yet really there is one that has compromised both of these groups! You can do some research. It will be easy enough to find. The real power behind the groups you mentioned is the Illuminati, the Enlightened Ones. History says that it was founded in modern day Afghanistan, and not until the mid to late 1700's did this take root in Southern Germany, Bavaria. Strangely enough, it was formed by a Jewish, Catholic Professor. Now I have given you a place to start.

Please do not discount the power or influence of this group. Without a doubt, these people have the power and access to control whatever they like. Sadly, we never see it yet they are there!

Q: How did the image of mortality figure in Templar ritual?

A: Well, your question goes to what they "really" valued. In their times, they were soldiers of Christ. Literally they were warring Monks. They were ordained as such. They swore poverty, chastity, and obedience for life. If you look at their modern day badge, it has two monks riding one horse.

They were fierce in battle. Even to know that Templars were present in the midst of an engagement would have struck fear in the hearts of their enemies.

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It was said a Templar would not withdraw unless outnumbered more than 10 to 1. When captured every Templar was executed. Their enemies were too scared that these monks would come against them again. They were skilled warriors and tacticians, and because of the large support infrastructure, they were well feed, well-armed, and well respected on the battlefield.

Ultimately, if they died in battle for God, all the better. They were on their way to heaven. Sound familiar? By the way, all this beheading in Iraq has its roots in the times of the crusades. Yes, Templars, and other orders beheaded their enemies. This is not a new thing.

Q: The Da Vinci Code refers to cryptic messages that were thought to be Included by Leonardo Da Vinci in his artwork, what do you think of movies, such as the Da Vinci Code which believes that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married, had children and that the Holy Grail is really Mary Magdalene?

A: Well, first I am glad it has people talking. That in itself is a great start. I guess I would ask you to look at the division even within Christianity today. How can this be? Have they read the same book? Yet each denomination has its own spin on what is right. Imagine if you will, a group that is not very well respected. Its crazy radical leader has been put to death, and many, even the Jews of the time, saw this as a political struggle as much as a religious one. You would lose your place in the pecking order. I mean, all men are created equal by GOD was as radical a thought then as it is now. What do we know, and how do we know it? This is speculation and even as many are trying to disprove it, there are those that believe it whole heartedly. Now if you believe, what does it matter if the facts don't match? That is where the concept of faith comes in.

Just some background on me, I was raised Catholic, was even an altar boy, and left the church around sixteen. I spent the next years in the military and the diplomatic corps and decided finally to come home and finish my college. I went to an Evangelical Protestant Church, as a matter of fact, a very influential church in Atlanta. Slowly over the years, I had the thought that there has got to be more. I didn't like the box that today's religions put you in. All that said, I believe in God. Call it the expanded version. I have no doubt that people all over the world search for this relationship, and I believe in the end, they all lead home. My heart breaks to see the way people are manipulated by fear in that relationship with their creator. If we are made in the image of God, does that mean our eyes and noses look alike? Or does that mean that the same divinity is in you that is part of Him.

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Q: According to the Scriptures, Mary Magdalene is mentioned twelve times. The author of the Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown, says Mary Magdalene was of royal blood and Jesus' wife. What are your thoughts on this?

A: Personally, I think Mary was favored above all others by Jesus, and for Peter and Paul, that would have been a hard pill to swallow. Much of the early church was in effect competing after Jesus<sup>1</sup> death. Even in the Bible, this is so. Letters to different churches warned about staying on the straight and narrow. If men controlled the process and information how easy would it be to say edit out things that are not "convenient."

The other thing I have a real problem with is that the Bible is really taken from the Greek, not the Aramaic, and because we are just now beginning to understand idioms of the day, how can we truly understand the Bible?

Q: Do you believe that Da Vinci's, The Last Supper has anything to do with The Knights Templar?

A: Wrong question. I believe that Da Vinci's Last Supper has everything to do with the way the church viewed/views its faith and the place or lack thereof women. Remember the artisans of the day depended almost exclusively on the Church and Royalty to pay them. What is that saying? Familiarity breeds contempt!

Q: How accurate, in your opinion is the movie Kingdom of Heaven?

A: Well, now this is Hollywood! First, I would say the most compelling point it makes was that there were honorable men on both sides. There were both good and bad religious zealots. And that finally in the end, you come to the conclusion that we have slaughtered each other, and for what? There was a great line at the end when Baleen asked Saladin, "What is Jerusalem worth?" The reply was something like, "Nothing... and everything." I thought the movie was as accurate as you could expect. I think they did well to avoid the real bloodshed. I promise you, that the battles of those days were ten times worse. They were up close and personal. You could see the color of the man's eyes you just ran a sword through.

On another important issue, yes the Templars did do many things especially toward the end of their "reign" that were not honorable. There is an old French proverb that translates something like this... "To be as drunk as a Templar." As the saying goes... Absolute power corrupts absolutely.



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**Section Manager Choice, The Galaxy Express** (*The Halls of Heaven* pg.72)

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**Thomas Selinas-Cross** (*A Glimpse of Cosmobiological Thought*, pg.79)

Thomas is an astrologer and an astronomer. He is an animal advocate and spends his spare time volunteering at the local animal shelter in his hometown in the state of Washington. He also travels to different states to put on planetarium shows. An avid outdoorsman, Thomas enjoys camping and hiking and fishing. You can visit Thomas on the [www.lightforcenetwork.com](http://www.lightforcenetwork.com) where he serves as a proficient.

**Brenda Staab** (*Metaphysics Without God – Is there a Purpose?*, pg. 81)

Brenda is a professional psychic, life coach, medium, channel and teacher. Brenda's empathic ability to interpret and understand the emotional energies that surround individuals allows her to receive higher information from spirit guides, angels and ancestors. Brenda is one of the few people in the US certified in the Mindmastery/ Power of Wisdom Sensory Integration Technique (sm) that helps others find relief from any malady that arises from a negative emotional signature at its core. You can visit Brenda at <https://www.brendastaab.com/> . The website can keep you fully informed about readings, classes and events and personal contact with Brenda.

**Desiree Lucente** (*Psychic Prey*, pg. 84)

Desiree has studied every path of metaphysics – light and dark for the past 30 years. She is a practicing clairvoyant and aura reader where little escapes her penetrating intensity. She has had many paranormal and supernatural experiences and plans to write a book about them in the near future. Desiree splits her time between living in Florida and Delaware. A vision told her to leave Florida well in advance of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

**Stephen Briggs** (*Interview with a Knights Templar Commander*)

This article has been published with permission of the former Galactic Press newszine. The interview was conducted by Stephen Briggs who was a staff reporter. Questions about reprint can be addressed at [editor.discerningminds@gmail.com](mailto:editor.discerningminds@gmail.com) .

# *Creative Musings*



*To create is Divine ...*

**Section Managing Editor – Marique Quinn**

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**“IN THE GARDEN OF STONE”**  
**Darjjon Brooks**

**Here I sit all alone  
In this garden of stone  
Not another living person around  
But here my soul is not alone  
Family and friends are here and there  
And other souls of people I do not know are all around  
For in this garden of stone  
This is a home  
A home for a while  
Not many people come here with a smile  
But sitting here alone this night  
Bathed within the moonlight  
There is a chill in the air  
But a warmth in my soul  
I talked to the one that I love  
I tell her of my life  
And that I am doing all right  
A candle is lit upon her place of rest  
In this garden of stone  
That is now her home  
For now I can only visit her here  
The one that I still hold dear  
Just an hour a night will I spend?  
For I have a life and friends  
But I will always remember this time here alone  
In this garden of stone**

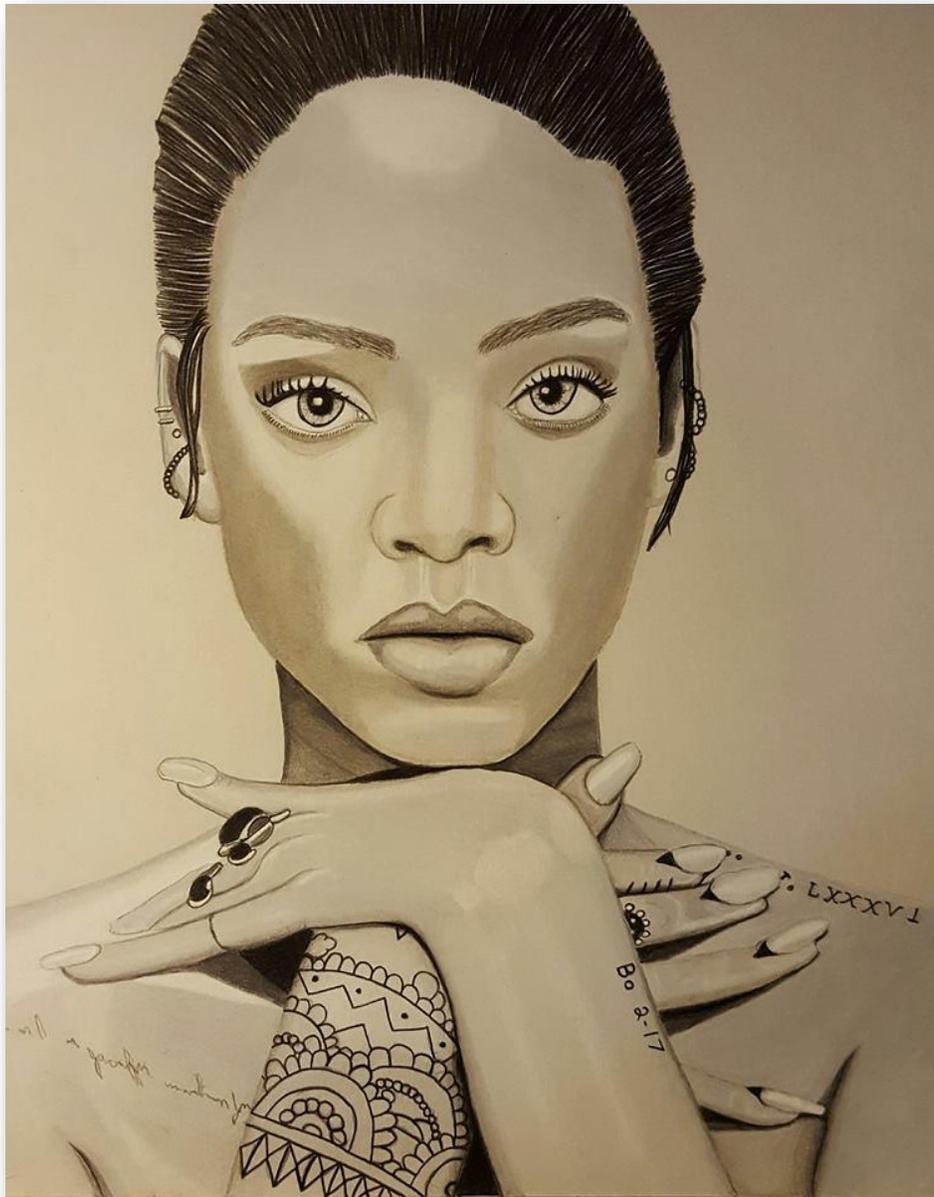
*Art by Bo Gallery*



**Reba**

11"×14" faber-castell polychromos color pencil on Stonehenge ice blue paper.

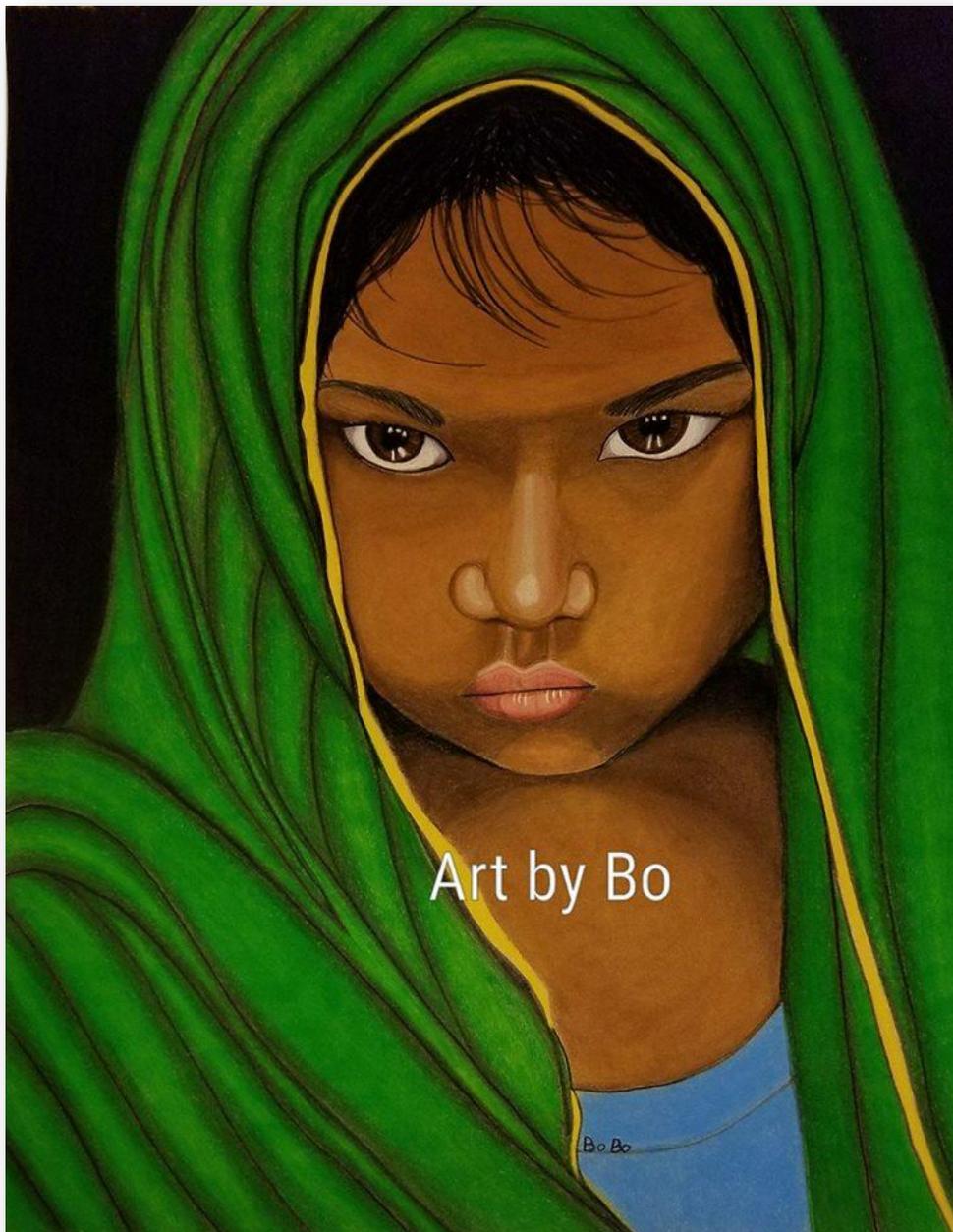
*Art by Bo Gallery*



**Rihanna**

11" by 14" faber-castell polychromos color pencil on Stonehenge gray paper.

*Art by Bo Gallery*



Art by Bo

**Naptime**

11"×14" faber-castell polychromos color pencil on Stonehenge tan paper.

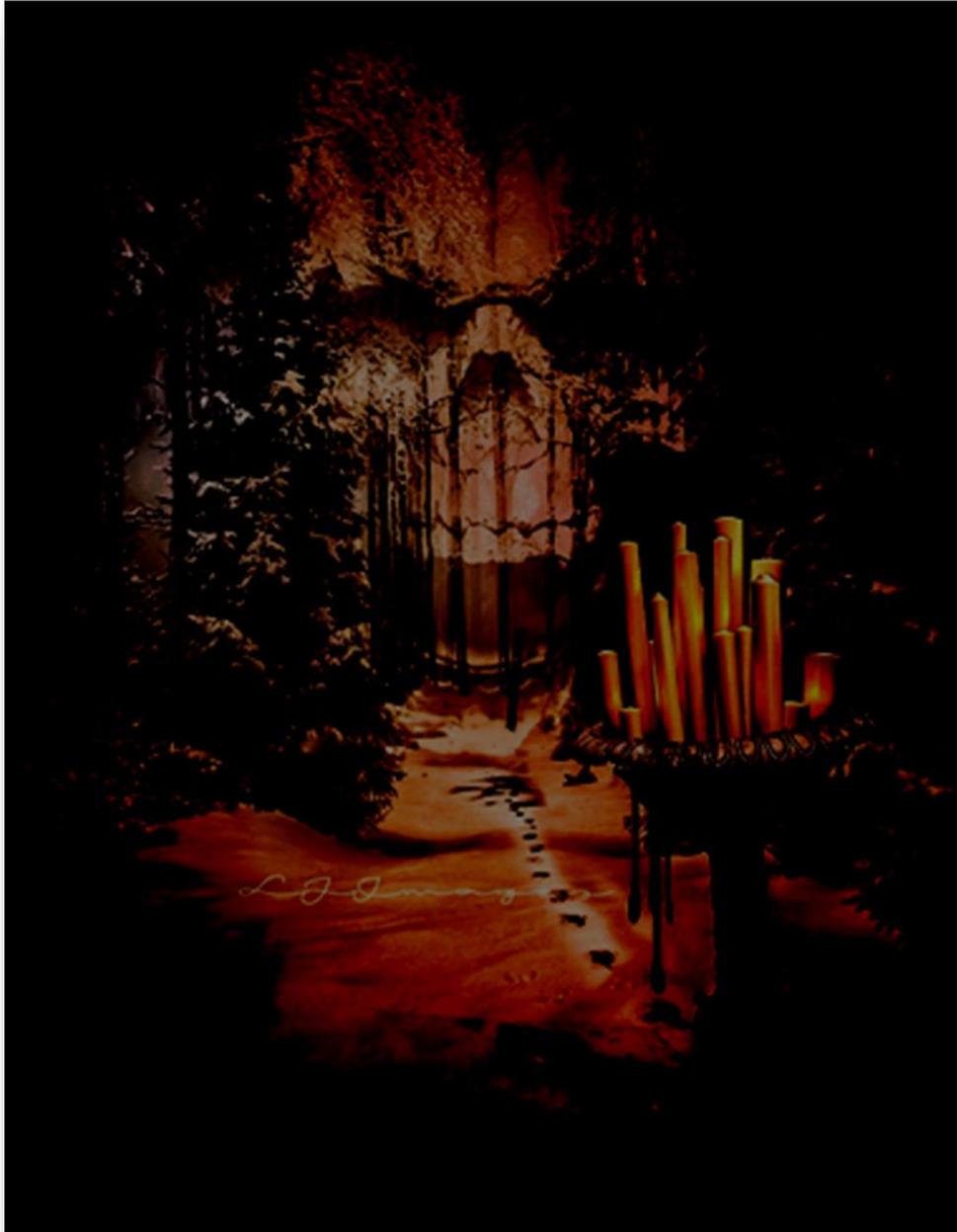
*Lyn Jenner Gallery*



**Fear Me**

Photo manipulation digital art.

*Lyn Jenner Gallery*



**Cold Red Snow**

Photo manipulation digital art.

*Steve Kane Gallery*



**Gorgon**

Black and white pen drawing with acrylic overpainting.

*Steve Kane Gallery*



**A First Demon**

Black and white pen drawing with acrylic overpainting.

*Steve Kane Gallery*



**The Witch**

Black and white pen drawing with acrylic overpainting.

*Victoria Rosenfield Gallery*



**Krestyanka**

“Krestyanka” means peasant woman in Russian but in the same time has a second meaning- Christian woman. It represents the simple life of our ancestors. This one is a small canvas 9x12 and is made in oils.

*Victoria Rosenfield Gallery*



**Lady of the Night**

“Lady of the Night” is a mixed media-acrylics, gold leaf, India ink on a 16x20 canvas pad. I remember I made it in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of my being in the US. It was a time of deep complexity – I was trying to figure out this culture, the people, their beliefs and this piece represents that. You see a beautiful face of a woman but yet there are so many things that make this art piece and all of them together give the impression of a figure. It is still one of my favorite pieces.

*Victoria Rosenfield Gallery*



**The Guide**

"The Guide" was made sometime in 2014 and it's a small canvas 9x12 done with acrylics and gold leaf. I was still experimenting at that time. I called it "the guide" because sometimes I am asking the colors to guide me through an artwork ... tell me what it goes and what does not.



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**Darjjon Brooks** (*In the Garden of Stone*, pg. 96)

I write my poetry from the heart and the emotions based on my own life experiences. Other than that I am a man of few words about myself and prefer anonymity. The Garden of Stone is a graveyard and the poem reflects a visit after the loss of a loved one. How many do you know who would think of a graveyard as a garden?

**David B. Pierce** (*Pierce Gallery*, pgs.97-99)

I'm David B. Pierce. I'm forty-nine years old and currently reside in Colorado. I spent most of my career as a heavy machinery technician. However, I could no longer follow this career due to a neck injury. This injury completely changed my life because I could no longer do the things I could before. About four years ago I began studying art, specifically color pencil art. I have given it everything that I have, and over the last few years it has given my life great meaning again; a feeling of purpose. I primarily draw portraits, but I do like to challenge myself with different subjects. I am much honored to be a featured artist and hope that you enjoy the three selections which are all in Faber-castell polychromos color pencils on Stonehenge toned paper. My artwork can be found at [www.facebook.com/Art-By-Bo-240594223068233/](https://www.facebook.com/Art-By-Bo-240594223068233/)

**Lyn Jenner** (*Jenner Gallery*, pgs. 100-101 )

Firstly, I will say writing about me is definitely never on any lists of stuff to do, I genuinely shy away from limelight, although can hold my own in a crowd, I'm not the most confident of people when it comes to my art, or my photography, there's always room for improvement, I think that was said a lot on school reports, not that I remember or care about what anyone at school thought about me now, its past. And I'm a firm believer in what people think of me being none of my business.

So, in brief, I am now entering my 50<sup>th</sup> year, I was 49 last birthday this year I'm hoping I will change my fortune for the better. Born, given up, fostered, treated not too well, care, fostered but then adopted, into the best family ever who I absolutely adore, everything and anything in-between that is irrelevant to the me now, although you will have some say that your past defines you. It doesn't me, I do not care for my past, I've loved lost and loved again - I am human. For me my family is most important to me. I have a husband, three amazing children and five cats. Yes five. I have no idea what I was thinking, but I can't resist a kitten.



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Continued ...

My art...hmm where to start, well I was given a camera one Christmas, just a point and shoot, nothing spectacular, but someone liked some of my shots, they liked the way I edited them, I'm not one to fuss over settings, my business name is LJ Images, I'm more focused on the end result to make something you can put on a wall, rather than focusing energies into getting the camera set up right, although I'm very much interested in infrared photography and will try out some long exposure infrared at some point this year, that is my goal. It will take a lot of reading and setting up but all equipment is ready to go, just need the trees to organize their regrowth and I'm set. I digress, so I was offered a really lovely dslr camera for not too much cash and saved up, like a child, this camera came everywhere with me, work, walks, family outings, I took a few thousand awful pictures but one day it worked for me and I've never looked back, of course the software was needed so I got into the adobe suite, and there it was. I sat staring at it for hours and hours and hours, we'd look at each other blankly for months on end, I'd lose patience first, Photoshop was the devils work, and the devil has work for idle hands. And man did I have a lot of free time, we became allies and now I can safely say Photoshop and I are almost going out for coffee...it's a very complex relationship, I say relationship, I mean program but we're on solid ground and speaking terms pretty much every day.

My art comes from dreams, from a line in a song, from a feeling, or a shape, it doesn't tell me when, it will sneak up. From flicker to full product can take a matter of hours or a few days, but only if I'm feeling it otherwise it will get binned.

A three word Photoshop challenge will be asked for if I'm having a creative block , and I'll work through what anyone wants to give me, as long as they realize, flowers and fluff very rarely happen, I'm currently in possession of a list twenty times three long. I've published my third piece of that.

Run out of time

This is me, kind of

Listening to *river, river by lonely the brave*



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Continued ...

**Steve Kane** (*Kane Gallery, pgs. 102-104*)

I have always been drawn to the macabre. And I have always drawn, first insects, then bones.

When I was very young I was given the Ladybird book of the body. I drew the skeletons, bones and skulls immediately.

In my early teens I picked up the book, Giger's Alien, following the advice of a local bookshop proprietor. I had never seen anything like that before – looking at those bizarre paintings of bones and machines gave me the ability to translate what I was trying to draw.

Art books, record sleeves and comics were my world. I started to draw comics and for many years I wanted to be a comic artist. I met Alan Mitchell who introduced me to the world of professional comics.

Alan was a fantastic and wildly imaginative author and we worked on many projects together. Many pushed at the boundaries and were never published. However, David Quinn and Tim Vigil published our first piece in RMM. It was an 8 page mood piece called "Lament for Baal".

Over the years Alan and I worked on "Hell Raiser", "Batman", "The Sodium Sisters" and many other stories, although none of these have been published.

The 13 page intro piece, "The Sodium Sisters" absolutely alienated every editor. The combination of sex, murder, dismemberment and cannibalism was too much. It was picked up by an editor of a porn magazine but was ultimately deemed too risky to be published by the magazine's legal team!

Alan and I decided to self-publish. We put together a compendium book containing stand-alone short comic strips called FIERCE. And then the kick to my belly was Alan dying.

I have yet to put "FIERCE" out there as I cannot look at it at the moment...maybe later this year.

The 3 pages here are from my new work, XIII – this will be 52 pages of full-color single images with a narrative, subtitled "Thirteen Moments of Dread".

XIII will be completed and published later this year...watch this space.



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Continued ...

**Victoria Rosenfield** (*Rosenfield Gallery, pgs. 105-107*)

Victoria Rosenfield is best known for her oil and acrylics portraits done with a huge amount of metal leaf. "I believe art has the value of changing one's life and this is one reason why I use a lot of gold and silver leaf." With its emphasis of paint finishes and metal, her work has been described as a kind of three-dimensional abstract expressionist visionary dark art. Self-taught, Victoria began painting at the early age of 5. In her early work in the 1990's she created portraits of strong female figures and later in her College years experimented with abstraction. Iconoclastic artist, Victoria thinks that her art falls outside the confines of any particular artistic movement or period "There are only 3 terms that are able to define my art-Love, Beauty and Alchemy." Here is a link to my artwork: <https://www.victoriarosenfield.com/>





# Odd Vant GuardE

EYES wide SHUT ...

**Section Managing Editor – Oscar ‘Trashman’ Corelli**

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## *Yolks*

Erika Egg

We are all yolks.

Why wouldn't we be? We come from an egg which is widely accepted in metaphysics to represent creation and in some cases immortality.

Within each egg, the yolk holds a promise of growth and with that growth wisdom. The yolk is life itself – vital gold holding an inborn need for Truth.

Many people dream of egg yolks and the meanings are varied. Generally a dream yolk symbolizes good luck and health. If it is rotten or bloody the exact opposite is true – the proverbial “he or she is a rotten egg.”

Sometimes when we cook a recipe might call for separating the yolk from the white part of the egg. We do the same with people. We separate them into categories deciding how we will treat them. At other times we may be surprised to find a double yoke. Maybe that means that often life plays a joke on us with unexpected surprises and we end up with egg on our faces because the yolk is on us. Maybe that double yolk simply reminds us of our own duality of nature.

Continued ...

When we get stressed, how do we handle being fried or when angry and in hot water, hard boiled?

When we are frazzled how do we unscramble our emotions?

If we are feeling a bit spicy does that make us devilish?

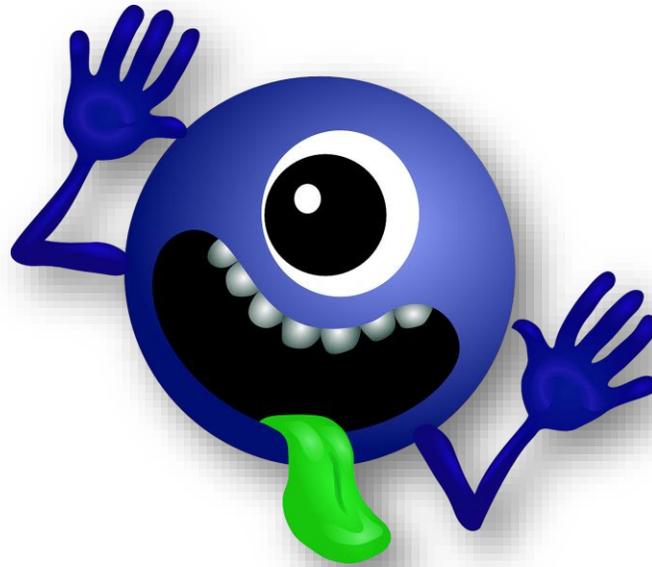
Are we runny sometimes because we can't make up our minds or poached because of half cooked ideas?

Could we be gullible because we are over easy or a traitor because we are a Benedict?

We all tend to live in our own shells where we feel safe and can hide or retreat when necessary. When that shell is damaged we feel vulnerable and in some cases maybe we've even "cracked up." We certainly are diverse since inside our shells we are judged by size and color – small, medium, large, extra- large and brown or white ... if we listen to Dr. Seuss we might even be green. Just like us, not all eggs are shaped alike. They might be spherical, elliptical or conical. Yet inside every egg is a yolk just like each one of our human shells houses a soul.

Like the old commercial says maybe as humans we aren't edible but we sure are incredible.





### *Besmirchers, Clowns and Ratfinks*

Jonathan H. Corelli

“*Besmirch* sounds kind of funny, but it goes hand in hand with other hurtful words like *defame* and *slander*. It can also mean to literally stain something. So that time you tracked mud all over the new white carpet and then blamed it on your little brother? That was a double besmirching — dirtying the rug and then falsely accusing a sibling.” – vocabulary.com

Ratfink - “the combination of two terms used to describe the underhandedness of someone to stress what a low down sneak they are.” - urbandictionary.com

Clown – “to laugh, make fun of, or find joy in a person or event. Almost always used in a derogatory or degrading fashion.” – urbandictionary.com

So, if we combine those we get a besmiratfinkclo? I was recently a target of a besmiratfinkclo at work. It was a bad experience that pushed up a volcano of angry emotional responses, some of which I didn’t even know I had. When all was said and done it, inspired me to think about what makes these people tick and pen this opine.

First a brief digression ...

Continued ...

There was a little known historical besmiratfinkclo who was quite adept at his scandalous craft back in the early 1800s. I say little known since he was one of those relatives hanging from a limb of one of the more obscure branches of my family tree and only infamous in the space of time he occupied as a human being. I surely hope I am not a reincarnate of this guy ... ghastly karma there I imagine. For the purposes of this article I'll just call him Thorndike.

Obviously Thorndike had his issues as generally does anyone who functions as a besmiratfinkclo. What exactly he *really* wanted out of life or other people is still unclear ... even a few of his attempts at relentlessly badgering people for money to get him to shut up and go away never really amounted to much. He connived and finagled with such devious skill that it is still hard to believe that he was incapable of becoming a millionaire. Eventually he got himself strung up and hung down from the local gallows tree.

Sometimes the fox in the hen house gets pecked ...

OOPS

Thorndike's tools were as nasty as he was apparently according to family oral history stories. He was a master wordsmith and pro at wielding shock, embarrassment and the shame-shame finger at innocent targets simply because he felt like it for whatever affront he imagined at the time complete with the assessment that they deserved it. It was rarely even a counter-attack for unkind words or simple human misunderstanding. Thorndike was the punisher, deliverer and the annihilator sent from one high – the holy of holies! Puffed up chest and puffed up ego, Thorndike was simply the worst kind of self-righteous b\*stard.

His words were crafted so well that they had a life of their own and hung in the atmosphere like a putrid green fog long after he uttered them. In a time of propriety such as when he lived people feared scandal. He was alleged to have incapacitated quite a few and was known to be proud of it since he stood lofty in self-righteous indignation; behind him a wall of "proofs." Unfortunate that wall of proof only took one hammer truth revealing incident to be easily crumbled.

As the oral history goes, his big mistake was zeroing in on a young lady whose grandfather (unknown to Thorndike) was a former judge with political clout and friends in high places.

Continued ...

There is a long held assumption that Thorndike had a passion for the young lady and was extremely envious of her fiancé who was a popular young man climbing high up the local political ladder. Good stock and all that. Success and all that. Thorndike simply would not have it. So what was the dirt du juor he might dig up? Surely there must be some misdemeanor he could use to bring down and crash Camelot. So, the accusations and reputation slaying began. It was when the momentum was at its peak and Thorny felt he was on the eve of his victory that a miscalculation brought the whole thing crashing down around his clown clodhopper feet. In his ego fog he overlooked getting one tiny piece of info, that one nail of truth, and he ended up being charged with a serious crime (the particulars of which were somehow lost in the family history) and sent to the gallows. Some say he was set up. Some say it was political revenge. Yeah, and karma is a b\*tch.

In the end Thorndike got his ... but what about the besmiratfinkclos of today? How about that besmiratfinkclo in my office who was pumping out assumptions with vindictive aplomb?

Psychologists say that this form of harassment obviously is manipulation with a need for power at its base. Seems to me it's rare that there is a person out there who is not guilty of drawing conclusions about the lives of others without actually seeking the truth to fill in the gaps. For some, these gaps often become stuffed with faulty self-righteous truths and clownish fillers that may appear real to the less evolved. There is an instant inclination to surmise, speculate and size up the information or evidence however it often goes beyond plain old gossip and can get ugly. Very ugly and rarely turns out the way the besmiratfinkclo desires.

After sorting my scenario out and reviewing Thorndike's end of life circumstance as the worst case scenario I have come to the following conclusions: 1. In the face of tragic or scandalous circumstances, what other people think is largely irrelevant. 2. What other people think is what other people think. 3. And sometimes things are not how they look.

The real truth is behind what is present despite how it may look. Too bad besmiratfinkclos never bother to do the work and look and get all the facts before letting a prideful quest get diarrheic. Too bad Thorndike and the guy in my office didn't look before they pointed the boney besmirching finger of clown judgment for the last time.



### *What is your Number of Fortune?*

Master Mirabilis

Anytime is a great time to grant wishes to mortals so I'm bringing you a special gift – your Number of Fortune.

The Celestial Numbers for your Sun sign and ruling planet and the corresponding Number of Fortune are based upon the ancient science of numerology. The Number of Fortune is vibrated from a combination of the Celestial numbers of your sign and planet. These numbers should not be confused with lucky numbers as they are delivered from a higher vibration!

Please note that ALL numbers are dispatched to a single number vibration. The contemporary rulers of the signs are used. You should look for your personal Number of Fortune every day – in a house number address (especially if you're looking to buy), in the serial number of a purchased item (particularly a collector's item), a lottery ticket, or any other speculation.

Be wise ...

Continued ...

## CELESTIAL NUMBERS

SIGN NUMBER	PLANET NUMBER	FORTUNE NUMBER
Aries 7	Mars 6	4
Taurus 1	Venus 9	1
Gemini 3	Mercury 4	7
Cancer 8	Moon 3	11=2
Leo 5	Sun 9	14=5
Virgo 8	Mercury 4	12=3
Libra 6	Venus 9	15=6
Scorpio 5	Pluto 3	8
Sagittarius 9	Jupiter 9	18=9
Capricorn 7	Saturn 3	10=1
Aquarius 8	Uranus 4	12=3
Pisces 8	Neptune 5	13=4



### *A Full Figure Analogy*

Kelly Mathison-Voltz

Sometimes a girl just needs a new bra. It's as simple as that. I did not know this fact until my friend Debbie went with me to shop for one. I think it is important to state that I am a much endowed sister. There is not a lot of space in this shirt for expansion, so to speak. However, I learned that in fact I did have room for expansion, in the spiritual sense anyway.

I have been noticing that with the increase of my bust line, there is also an increase in my "hiding" my womanhood. During my younger years I will be the first to say that I used the awesome twosome to get my way with a lot of people. But, lately I have been hiding the dynamic duo under loose shirts, darker colors and just plain ill-fitting brassieres. I longed for tank tops and dare I say strapless dresses... how in the hell was I going to get into a strapless bra?! I thought to myself this contraption would resemble a medieval torture device with two large rusty hooks leveled with some of that ship rope on the sides. Not for me, no way matey.

My friend Debbie changed the way I looked into this situation.

Continued ...

Sometimes we need someone from the outside of the loud chatter in our minds saying, “No, you freak you could put someone’s eye out with those things”, to rather say, “Girl you better work those things.” OK so I went to work.

So, for those of you chicks who don’t know the wall of entertainment at your local Lane Bryant store, you should check it out. Now there’s an advertisement for feeling good about yourself. Skittles colors of the rainbow with a shake of cups of love. I have always thought that those padded flavors were for women who wanted to add more to their size, and that was definitely not what I wanted to do. I was completely mystified by this ... this wall of power.

First I was suited up with an orange meringue situation. Now this thing could have been in the running for the 9<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world (44 DDD) I mean you could make two punch bowls out of this thing! However, when I strapped in, an amazing thing happened, it actually was stunning. I instantly felt physically better, you know support and all.

So, then over the door came ... the STRAPLESS. “Poodle this one has your name all over it” says the heroine of bra town. No straps for these melons? How in maiden form was I going to keep this thing from being a belt? I got it on and viola it stayed, and I made sure. Jumping jacks, a couple of lean twos, all good and in position ready for duty Ma’am. I felt great. My little notch of the world just opened up a little more. Bring on that black strapless number and forget the cover up!

Getting back to the spiritual aspect of this experiment. I was personally under something the Hindu’s call *Maya*, the veil of delusion. The Buddhists also have it worded as *Dukkha*, where the mind in normal state generates a constant state of unsatisfactory outlook. That was me, whenever I looked in the mirror or I saw a dress I really wanted, my mind said, “Not on your life fatty.” With the help of my friend the bra-whisperer, I got out of my head for a mere 30 minutes to see another part of reality.

Because reality is after all what we make it isn’t it? Getting a little deep here, the breasts represent so much of a woman’s life and of her vision of her self-worth and ‘true’ identity. Shouldn’t I allow myself something that empowers me and assists me in appreciating myself a little more? I could go on for a very long time about this subject. I think it is a powerful way of getting past, well my past. It is true sometimes we just need a new bra.



### *The Truth about Merlin*

Roger Teeter

You have been taught that Merlin is a mystical teacher of King Arthur. In truth, Merlin is a code name of the individuals both male and female that make up the Priesthood of the Ancient Mystical White Brotherhood after the Order of Melchizdek functioning to express both sides of the paradox. When it is needed to bring about change, we to bring maintenance, we “do.”

One of those prime entities from the star Mira is known as the Priest/Magician Merlin. Starting from the Central Sun of the Central Sun, ALL THERE IS/SOURCE, expanded its consciousness as twelve crystalline entities, twelve gold entities, twelve silver entities, making total of thirty-six prime entities. The thirty six chose to expand its wisdom and knowledge experienced, by learn-teach omniscience, seeding the Cosmic Christ into all expression of form. In order to activate the Cosmic Christ as experience by the Master Jesus the last high Priest of the Ancient Mystical White Brotherhood after the Order of Melchizdek, a Celtic Church was created. This was a merger of the Druids and the Christian Church honoring God, Goddess, and Source.

The Celtic Church was suppressed by the Latin Church, at the time of one known as St. Patrick Arthur.

Continued ...

Arthur, acknowledged as King of all the Britons. Arthur wielded the Sword Excalibur which was forged from a single dragon scale of Michaelia by Elves in the fires within the Crystal Mountains. He reigned from 345 CE to his final battle between the Latin Church and the Celtic Church. I “was” Merlin Ambrosius, brother of Uther Pendragon, mentor of Arthur Pendragon, son of the presiding Ard Merlin, Keeper of the Iron Cross, made from the core of the tree that Master Jesus was crucified.

During that which was to be the final battle between Arthur (the Celtic Church), Lancelot (the Latin Church), and Mordred (a Prince of the Latin Church), Merlin Ambrosius, in anger, threw the Iron Cross, intercepting Excalibur thrown by Arthur at Lancelot, causing it to explode, into three pieces. The hilt buried itself into Arthur's armor, giving him a mortal wound. As Excalibur, exploded waves of energy hit my chest knocking me down, leaving me dazed.

Later, seeking out Lady Vivian in the Crystal Cave, I called upon the Dragon Michaelia, whose breath is Sexual Magic, in an attempt to rebalance what I had done at the battle. This signified the end of the dream of Camelot. I reflected, with my head resting in her lap, as she stroked my hair. Shaking my head trying to clear it, sobbing I asked, “How did all this began, what choices did I make to bring me to this position where did I go wrong?” Lady Vivian began a song spell that took me back, back, to remembering how we met . . .

It was the merging of our energy with the Great Rite of Beltaine, Honoring the Lord, the Lady and Source. I chose to create a vortex to control manipulate, dominate others’ freewill, by calling upon the Dragon Michaelia to create the dream of Camelot. Camelot’s myths and legends contain the truth of that which was known as the Celtic Church, a way to preserve the teachings of triunity which is God/Goddess/Source. Lady Vivian then called upon that line which I had taught her to absorb all my knowledge of both what I had done, and the magic I knew. In truth, it was my self-loathing that caused me to withdraw, into a trance like state, feeling I had failed the Lord and the Lady.

Asleep in the Crystal Cave for these many years up until after 1500 years, give or take six months, I have finally remembered, the effects of misuse of power at the withdrawal from the Earth Realm into the Crystal Cave beneath the Crystal Mountain on the plain of Consciousness. Lancelot, Vivian, Mordred and others have returned into my life to help me with great lessons. The time of probation is over, and the contract I signed long ago in Atlantis for the plan and Mother Earth has been called in by our Lord and Lady

Continued ...

(This information comes from my Shadow Self, triggered by reconnecting with many people who have sought me out over the last fifteen years.)

The purpose of Ascension is to move out of the dark side of the pyramid or Ego, which is symbolized by imbalance between the God/Goddess/Source within and moving into the Star Tetrahedron, balancing God/Goddess/Source, and the into Guardians that we all are. In order to release these old programs we have to go within so that we “Know Thy Self as Source.” It is the purpose of the Priest/Magician Merlin to purify, to open, to integrate, and to become a Star Gate. It is this accelerated path that the individuals choose as they come into their realization of the multidimensionality of being. Functioning as the Cosmic Christ through self-empowerment which surrenders freewill/individuation as an act of Unity working in the NOW co-creating with Mother/ Father /Source.

We believe that an Earth Religion Holistic World View is and must be incorporated in our daily lives. It starts within an individual moving outward into family, community, the nation, our world, in acts of freewill. Expressed through the twelve levels of self, opening to the thirteenth thus becoming a Star Gate. Indeed it is through this Star Gate we function as a portal for the inflow of the universal energies to raise the conscientiousness of the collective, as well as our own individuality. We will create the new circulatory system of the Earth, grounding in the Earth releasing the old grid system, creating a new grid system, so that we have a new Earth upon which to experience our new conscientiousness. That which shall heal Mother Earth is for each of us to surrender to the healing of ourselves focused on the NOW not Past or Futures, receiving and transmitting the Whole Stream of Light, open and receptive to the inflow of Universal Energy. Indeed, this is our whole purpose for being human, for being on the planet, and we have each agreed to be on the planet, at this time. By working one with one we will make a change in our world for our Children, and the Generations to come.





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**Erika Egg** (*Yolks pg.113*)

Erika “Egg” Eriksen has an egg fetish and has been collecting designer eggs since she was six years old. The eggs are constructed or fabricate from all times of materials from wood to marble to porcelain to crystal. Her most prized egg is a Fabergé egg left to her by a great grandmother who was Russian. Erika has been studying various avenues of metaphysics for 17 years and counting and feels her connection to it has been enormously helpful to her life and sense of self.

**Jonathan H. Corelli** (*Besmirchers, Clowns and Ratfinks, Pg. 115*)

Jonathan lives in New York and in Montana during the summer months. He is a freelance writer and part time comedian who loves to travel as much as possible (have pen, will travel!). He likes to say, “Writing is not perfection unless it has a humor injection” so even the most serious of topics are infused with a dose of the literary giggles. According to Jonathan it all makes “perfect sense in every sense of the term sense.”

**Master Mirabilis** (*What is your Number of Fortune, Pg.118*)

The “master” prefers to stick with his pen name. He is a freelance writer who has had columns in various human interest sections of newspapers and magazines over the years. He believes it is the information and knowledge that is important and not one’s personal accomplishments.

**Kelly Mathison-Voltz** (*A Full Figure Analogy, Pg. 120*)

Kelly is an effervescent Gemini who says she is the “Mother of little dragon. Wife of beautiful Taurus. AND Lover of all glitter.” She has worked in retail management and with children with emotional and behavioral differences for the past twenty years. Kelly believes laughter IS the best medicine! She resides in Atlanta, GA.

**Roger Teeter** (*The Truth about Merlin, Pg. 122*)

This bio and the article are posted posthumously in honor of Roger Teeter. Rev. Roger was a Universal Life Minister who came into the gift of Spirit in 1985. He was a certified Hypnotherapist specializing in Cathartic Integration Techniques. Roger utilized many modalities in his work – channeling, vision, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, precognitive awareness of the Akashic records, Psycometry, Dragon’s Breath, Reiki, Zenith, and Star Maps to assist individuals in developing their hidden talents.