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# Astrology & Jung: Evoking Wonder, Supporting Individuation, Restoring Meaning.

March 23, 2024 (Part 2 of 4)

C.G. Jung Society, Seattle (via Zoom)

Wisdom School class with:

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To calm and center ourselves:

a moment of silence...

...and 4 deep breaths.

Note:

To make learning and integration easier...

I'll make ALL these PowerPoint slides available as a PDF.

I will post them on my web site, [www.dankeusal.com](http://www.dankeusal.com), on the page (under “Workshops”) for this class, a few days after 4/6/24 (after the last class)

## Outline for this 4-week class:

- 1) Week 1: The wonder of the night sky (and: the *astronomy* of astrology)
- 2) **TODAY:** Astrology 101
- 3) Week 3: Astrology and Jungian Psychology
- 4) Week 4: In practice: reading of an actual chart.

Before we can explore  
“Astrology *and Jung*,”  
we have to know...

...what “astrology” IS...

(...and...what it is NOT 😊)

# Introduction:

## The parable of the cosmic diving board...

“In your imagination, go back in time to the  
day you were born...”

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- The gifts, talents, traits, characteristics, and tools you have to support you in this learning.
- What it might look like when you get off track, and how you can get back on track.
- How you can use your freedom, consciousness, will, and creativity to make wise choices, and live an authentic, meaningful life—a life aligned with Spirit...i.e. an “individuated” life!

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- Why do I sometimes feel stuck, and how can I move through that and open up my life?
- How can I access my deepest creativity?
- What spiritual practices best suit me?
- How can I deepen my confidence, and create a life that feels meaningful?



Painting (excerpt)  
by C.G Jung,  
*The Red Book*, p. 44

# Astrology 101





**Astrology's building blocks:**

**Planets, signs, houses...**

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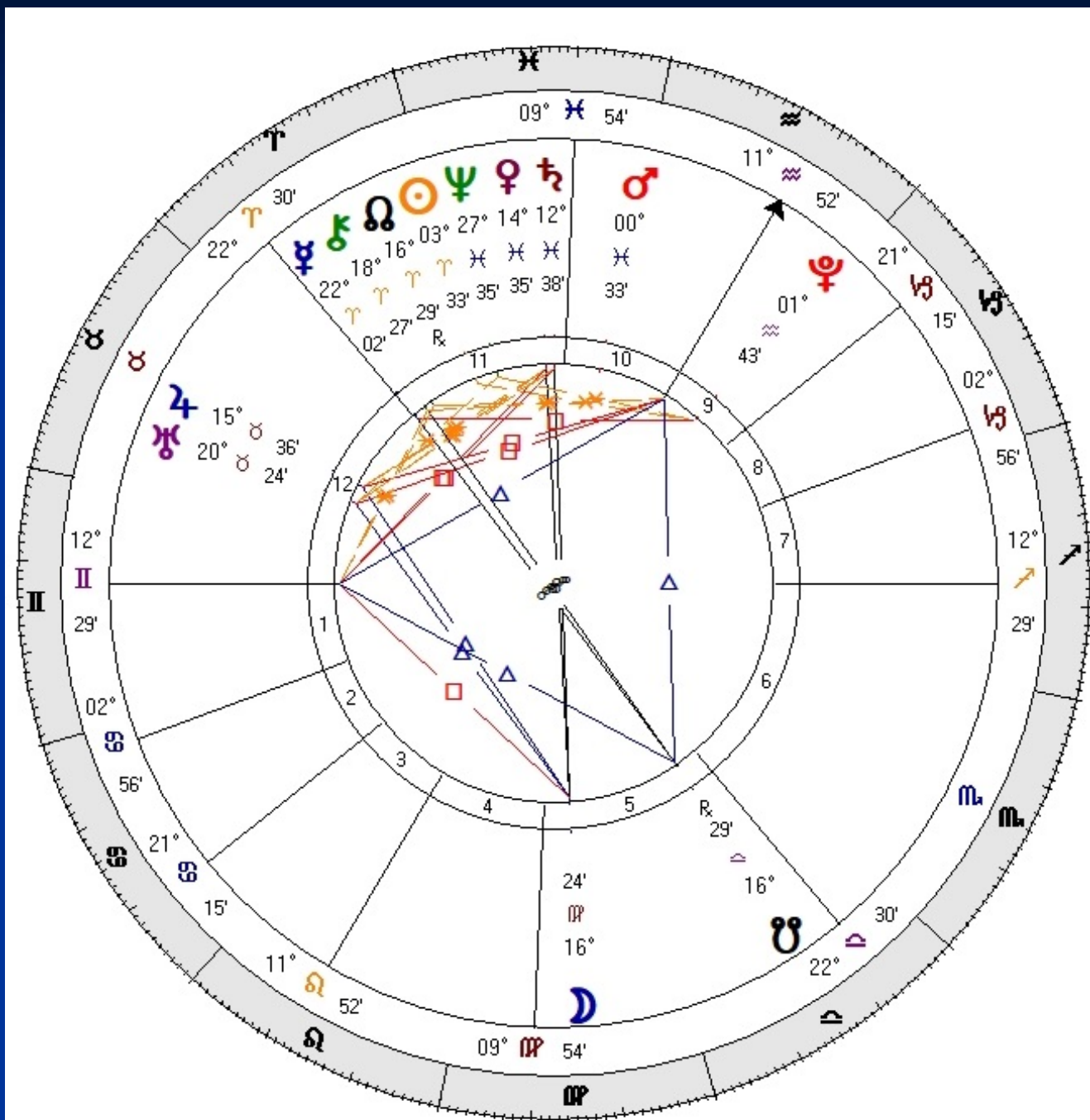
Each planet is in *both* a sign *and* a house  
at the same time.

("clear concentric roulette wheels")

# Chart for 3/23/24 10:00 AM Seattle, WA

Pt	Name
	Moon
	Sun
	Mercury
	Venus
	Mars
	Jupiter
	Saturn
	Uranus
	Neptune
	Pluto
	Chiron
	North Node
	South Node
	Ascendant
	Midheaven

Sg	Name
	Aries
	Taurus
	Gemini
	Cancer
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	Virgo
	Libra
	Scorpio
	Sagittarius
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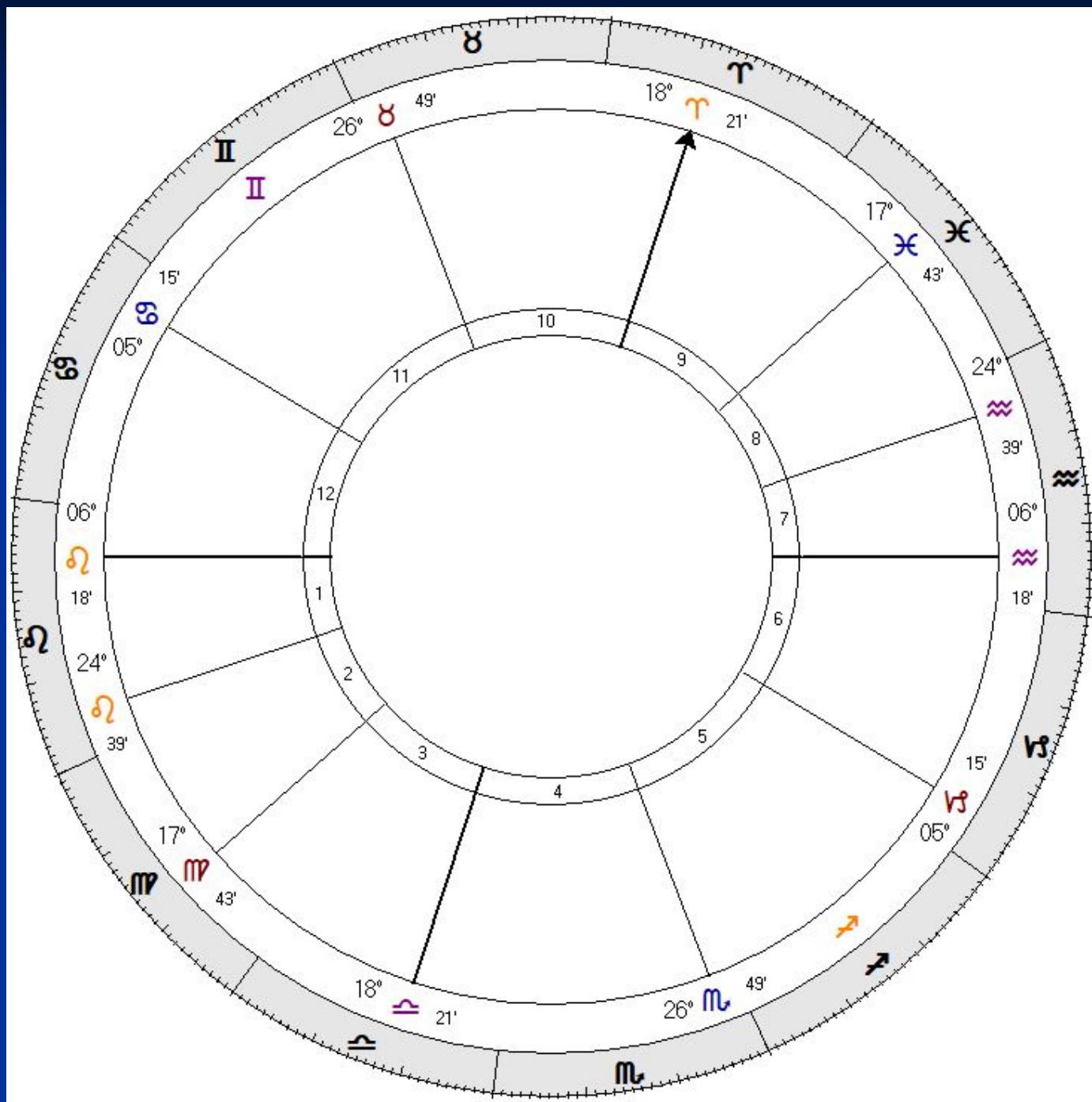
We **ARE** our signs, we **DO** our houses

Every chart contains  
all the **signs** and all the **houses**,  
just as every baseball field has a pitcher's mound,  
bases, and an outfield.  
That's just the "structure" of a chart.

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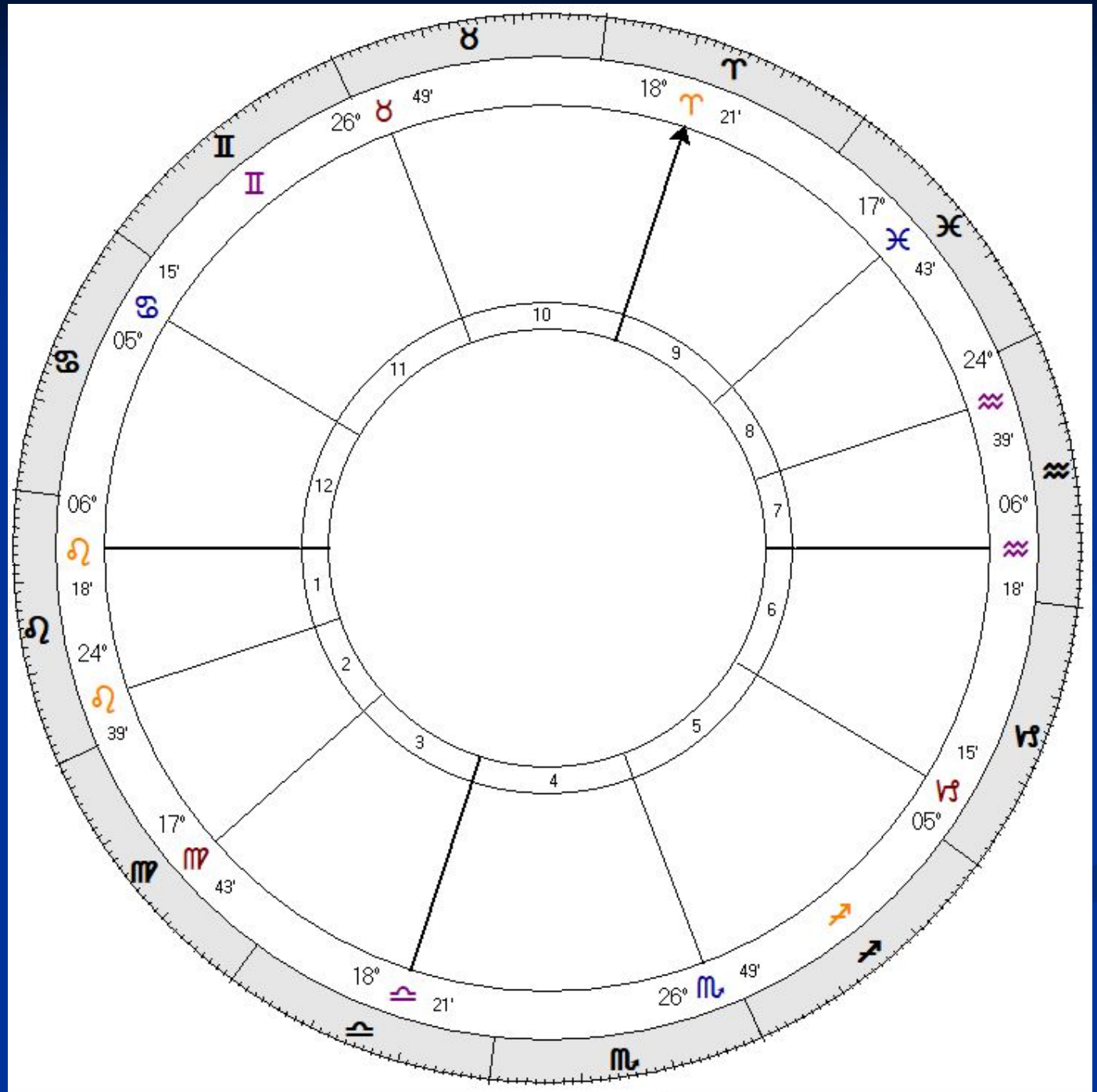
The planets are the "activators" of the potential  
in those the signs and houses:

**where the planets are,**  
THAT'S where the "action" is,  
i.e. **that's where your lessons are.**

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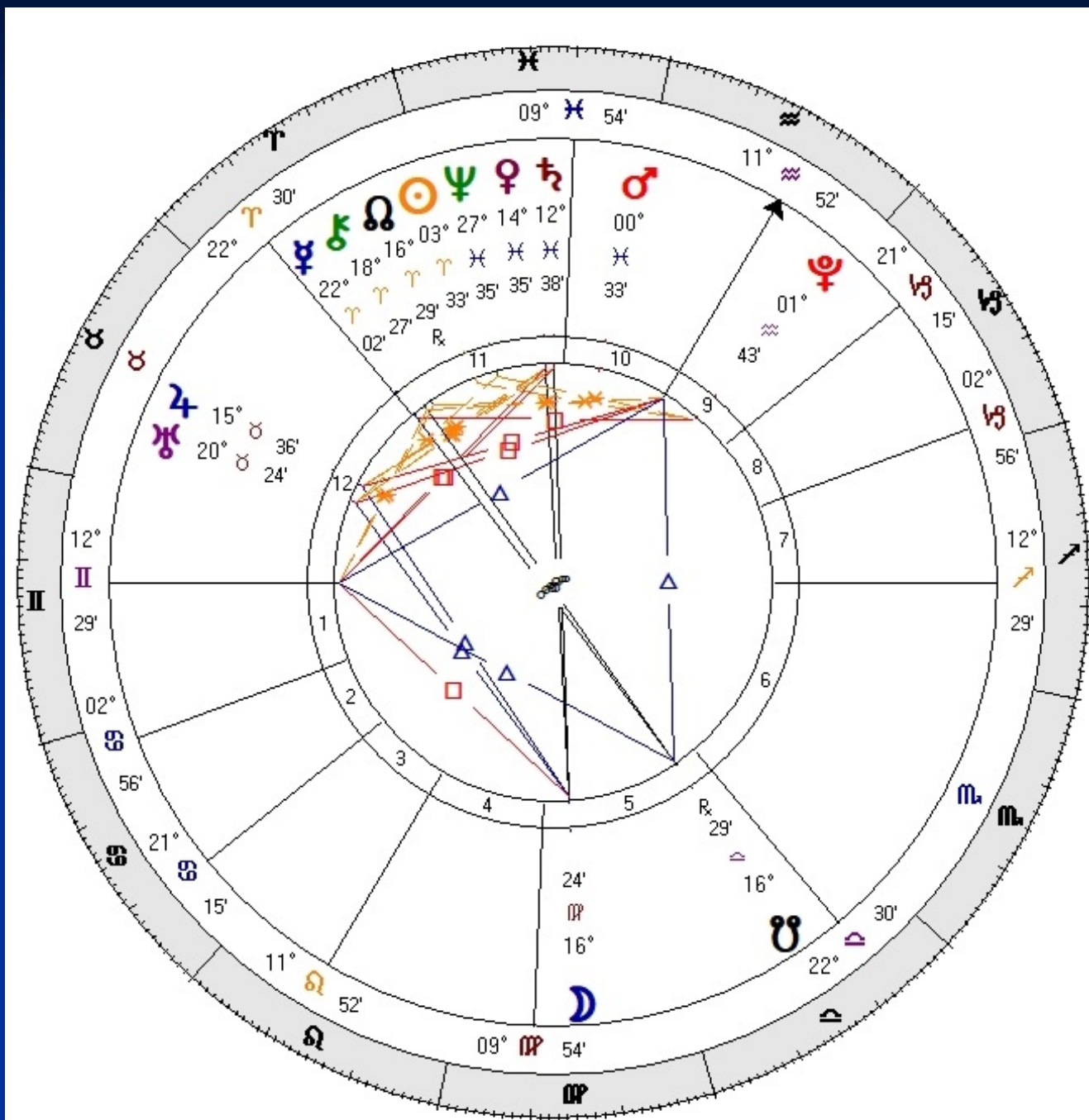
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Each planet/sign/house configuration  
(e.g. “**Mercury** in **Aries** in the **10<sup>th</sup>** house”)  
conveys **NOT** a static set  
of personality characteristics...

but a dynamic **developmental task**,  
which calls for an  
active, creative, conscious **response**  
from the “owner” of that chart.

“That is what we usually neglect to do. We allow the images to rise up, and maybe we wonder about them, but that is all. We do not take the trouble to understand them, let alone draw ethical conclusions from them. This stopping short conjures up the negative effects of the unconscious. It is equally a grave mistake to think that it is enough to gain some understanding of the images and that knowledge can here make a halt. Insight into them must be converted into an ethical obligation.” (*Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, p. 192-193)

Good astrology, therefore,  
is *not* just **descriptive**  
 (“As an Aries, you *are*\_\_\_\_\_”)

it is **prescriptive**  
 (“As a Aries, you are here  
*to learn*\_\_\_\_\_”)

Example of a planet,  
in a sign,  
in a house,  
as a developmental task, requiring an  
active response  
from the owner of the chart:

“Mercury in Aries in the 10<sup>th</sup> house”



When taken **together**, these planet/sign/house configurations constitute a kind of psycho-spiritual **“curriculum”** for a person’s life.

This “curriculum,” this life-long learning process, this process of healing and growth, of becoming who one really *is*...

...is (again) akin to what Jung called the “individuation” process

An astrological **birth chart** is a symbolic **representation** of that “curriculum.”

The task of the **astrologer**, in a birth chart “**reading**” or session, is to **translate** those symbols from “astro-jargon” back into plain, usable English. The goal is to provide the client, who should not need to know anything about astrology, with **understandable, jargon-free guidance** that they can use to live a more authentic, meaningful life.

Again:

Jung called this process of  
moving toward this  
authentic, **meaningful** life...

... “individuation”

The goal of astrology...

...is *not* to “amaze” people...

...it is to **HELP** them.

How is “astrology” different from the  
“horoscopes” in the daily paper?

The *‘horoscope’* considers **ONE** factor:

The *sign* of a person’s *sun*.

*Astrology* considers **10** (TEN) planets,  
in each of **12** possible signs,  
in each of **12** possible houses.

That’s already **1,440** initial combinations,

And it gets way more complicated...

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**And it gets way more complicated:**

Two analogies:

1. Cooking soup—spices, seasonings...
2. Joe Biden gets into an elevator...and then...

## **A definition of astrology:**

Astrology is the craft of integrating the **positions** of planetary bodies relative to the constellations...

...with the archetypal **stories** associated with those planets & constellations...(and with the “houses,” the contexts in which those archetypes get enacted)

...to offer people **insight** and **guidance**, empowering them to make better **choices**, and live more **authentic, meaningful** lives.



What about free will?...

Does astrology mean that I lose my capacity to choose, to create my own life path?

# Freedom I

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# Freedom I

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...are asked to write a poem in “iambic pentameter” on the subject of “love”...

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Within the parameters of a given set of filters or limits (“iambic pentameter” + “love,” or the placement of planets in signs and houses within a birth chart), there is still nearly infinite room for choice, variation, creativity, individuality.

# Freedom II

“We must affirm  
that all choices lie in our own hands,  
and that no planet or sign ever  
pre-ordains a specific fate.”

~Steven Forrest, *The Inner Sky*, p. 5

# Freedom III

“There is nothing in a chart so ‘good’ that laziness, unconsciousness, and/or poor choices can’t wreck it.

And there is nothing in a chart so ‘bad’ that attention, consciousness, and creativity can’t turn it into a positive opportunity for growth.” (Steven Forrest)

# The philosophy of astrology: how it works.

The planets do not **“cause”** us to do things, e.g. via gravity, electromagnetic fields, etc....

Instead, the planets **reflect** archetypal patterns that also exist in our own individual psyches.



# The philosophy of astrology: how it works (cont):

This type of connection  
is what Jung called **synchronicity**,

the phenomenon by which

**inner and outer,**

psyche and matter,

are connected

not by causality, but by **meaning**.

## The philosophy of astrology: how it works (cont):

“It was modern psychology and parapsychology which proved that **causality does not explain** a certain class of events and that in this case we have to consider a formal factor, namely **synchronicity**, as a principle of explanation.”

(Jung, *CW8*, para 944)

The synchronistic relationships  
between the OUTER conditions  
in the stars and planets...  
...and the INNER conditions  
in our psyche...

...are a reflection of the ancient axiom:

**“As above, so below  
As without, so within.”**

## **An everyday example of synchronicity:**

“Out of the blue,” you suddenly find yourself thinking [inner] of your beloved Aunt Elizabeth, whom you haven’t talked to in 6 months.

## **An everyday example of synchronicity:**

“Out of the blue,” you suddenly find yourself thinking [inner] of your beloved Aunt Elizabeth, whom you haven’t talked to in 6 months.

And just as that thought enters your mind...

...the phone rings [outer!]



## An everyday example of synchronicity (continued):

Thinking of your Aunt Elizabeth [inner] did not  
“cause” her to call you...

...nor did her dialing your number [outer]  
“cause” you to start thinking of her.

The two events—one inner, one outer—are  
connected not by **causality**, but by **meaning**.

So, again:  
the planets and stars  
do not **cause** us to do anything.

They reflect or mirror archetypal energies...  
...that are **meaningful**,  
that pose questions  
with which we are here to wrestle,  
and from which we can learn.



We'll look at synchronicity more deeply  
in Part III....

In particular, we will examine the way that  
Jung's thinking helped to heal the post-modern  
split between "object" and "subject,"  
and restore the more ancient experience  
of the so-called "outer" world as animated,  
as *anima mundi*...

**“Ah, not to be cut off”**

**Rainer Maria Rilke**

Ah, not to be cut off,  
not through the slightest partition  
shut out from the law of the stars.

The inner -- what is it?  
if not the intensified sky,  
hurled through with birds and deep  
with the winds of homecoming.

**Thomas Moore**

**(from “Astrology’s Truth,” in):**

***The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life***

“Astrology is a form of imagination emerging from nature and having direct relevance for everyday life. It’s an applied poetics, a vision of life on earth stimulated by movements in the heavens, which can take us into areas of self-reflection as no other system of symbols and images can... (cont...)”

## Thomas Moore (cont)

“...Astrology, based on one of the most fundamental of human experiences—the feeling of wonder occasioned by celestial movements—is among the few self-contained symbol systems that can help us make sense out of the chaos of life. When we feel confused and lost, we can use the sky for guidance.” (p. 317-318)

# Discussion:

- What perceptions/opinions did you have about “astrology” prior to today’s program? Where did those opinions come from? On what were they based?
- How did your prior perceptions/opinions of astrology compare to the approach presented (so far) here today? What has changed? What remains the same? What questions, concerns, skepticism might you still have?

To get a **FREE** copy (PDF) of your chart...

Send an email to:

[dankeusal@dankeusal.com](mailto:dankeusal@dankeusal.com) with your:

- First and last name
- **DATE** of birth (day/month/year)
- **PLACE** of birth (city, county, state, country)
- **TIME** of birth (down to the *minute!*)
  - Birth time **MUST** be exact!
  - Best source for this: a **birth certificate**. “My mother remembers it as...” is **NOT** sufficient 😊

## Outline for this 4-week class:

- 1) ✓ Week 1: The wonder of the night sky (and: the *astronomy* of astrology)
- 2) ✓ **TODAY**: Astrology 101
- 3) Week 3 (3/30): Astrology and Jungian Psychology
- 4) Week 4 (4/6): In practice: reading of an actual chart.