



## Foundations, Legacies and Heritage

Dear Mysteries,

This month's packet talks about foundations, legacies, and heritage. Foundations are like the Earth that we stand on, what we build on, the bones of our ancestors. And like the bones of our ancestors, we inherit the legacies of our families and culture. Even the Gods and Goddesses have foundations, a heritage from their families that establish patterns that influence power, change, and fate.

Zeus, for example, is the product of his heritage. His father, Cronos (Saturn) swallowed Zeus' siblings. His mother chose Zeus to be the child that she would protect from Cronos. Zeus overthrew his father and released his siblings. Did he become chief God on Olympus because he saved his brothers and sisters, or did he save them because he was destined to be a leader? Did you ever wonder if his legacies of two generations of sons overthrowing fathers influence his childless marriage? Did his mother's conspiracy with him to overthrow his father play a part in his relationship to Hera, his wife?

Does this mean that we are determined by our families? Or can we grow beyond our foundations and change the patterns of fate? Well, Zeus did. Today he is known as Jupiter, the largest of all the planets. Jupiter's red spot is an example of chaos resolving into a stable form. Astrologically, Jupiter's qualities are confidence, vitality, expansiveness, cheerfulness, and generosity. A modern Jovian (Jupiter-like) archetype is Santa Claus. Over the millennia, he has grown beyond his legacy.

The characters of our story also have foundations and families. Theseus has grown up not knowing who his father is. It is a secret kept by his mother until the time is right for him to know. Minos is the son of Zeus. His mother, Europa, was abducted by the God disguised as a bull. He and his brothers were raised by his step-father, Asterius, the ruler of Crete. Pasiphae is the daughter of Helios the Sun, granddaughter of the Titan Hyperion. Her mother is the island of Crete, child of Ourea, the Land. Her aunts are Eos, the Dawn and Selene, the Moon. Daedalus is a descendant of Cecrops, the founder of Athens. He is related, then, to Theseus. Daedalus' mother is Merope, the faintest star of the Pleiades, who hides her face in shame after marrying a mortal.

I am struck by the rich possibilities of secrets, shadows, and promises inherent in these family histories. And the possibilities that they can rewrite their fates. Can we, will we, also change the patterns that seem our destinies? As we stand here at the place between legacy and prophesy, will we have the courage to create a new reality?

Blessed be, *Arden*



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## Life as a Sacred Path...Musings from The Book of Shadows

by Jane Holt

Foundations, Heritage, Legacy. What shadows hide in here that I don't want to find? What pitfalls am I afraid of? Are these surfaces I want to skate over quickly for fear I will break through into quagmires I haven't dealt with yet? What treasures am I yet unwilling to uncover? What wealth am I still unwilling to claim? Why is it that I prefer to take a quick look and move on? I have seen the darker side of my heritage. It is not a mystery to me and it no longer holds unknown monsters. Where does my resistance come from? Because I am resisting this month-long look into my foundations. I tell myself that I know all about it. I tell myself that it really doesn't matter anyway. I'm living in the present and forming the future. The self-righteousness of that last statement brings out the red flags. I think I see a chink in this armor.

What are the promises and secrets of my full legacy? Do I feel as if I may have failed these somehow? Have I lost the pieces of my heritage that I've denied or refused? Lots of questions. It's the only way I know to find answers.

No, asking questions isn't the only way to find answers I remind myself. I can listen. I can listen to the answers within the questions. I can listen to Life as it sits outside my window rapping on the glass to get my attention. I can even slow down enough to listen to myself. Just listen. Finally, I can listen to the stories of those who lived, and still live, my legacy with me. This could be friends or contemporaries, it could even be other members of my birth family.

That last one makes me nervous. I can feel the tension of anxiety in my body. I may have finally gotten to the root of my resistance. This year I have a special opportunity. Opportunity; from the Latin *porta*, an "entrance" or "passage through". The question is whether I'll walk through that portal. This year, my sister and brother are in Mystery School. I gave it to them as a gift and I hear that they are interested. I hadn't thought about all the ramifications of having them in Mystery School. I'm really proud of the work that all of us do and I wanted to share it. I conveniently forgot that every month I would be writing an intimate article for the newsletter, not to mention posting to the various email discussion lines. All of which they might be reading. I still find it odd how often I "inadvertently" set up challenges for myself which, in turn, offer me tremendous opportunities. Yes, Hermes, you seem to have struck again. All year I will be sharing intimate pieces of myself with you and,... with them.

When I speak of my legacy, my sister and brother are both part of that legacy. They have their own legacies and I am part of them. The myths and stories we tell of our legacies aren't the same. We each saw that history from different perceptions colored by the different legacies of birth order, gender, personality and the multiple other differences that were part of our individual inheritances. And yet we all have the same legacy.

How do I share my legacy with my sister and brother? How do I ask them to share theirs with me? How do I use our sharing to create new legacies, new perceptions? How do I use this "passage through"? How do I sit down and talk with them about all this?

How would any of you Mysteries feel about sitting down and discussing legacy with other members of your own birth families? How do you think the conscious and unconscious layers would feel? How abundant are the riches to be gained from the hearing, the connecting? What will be the legacy of all of us doing this work together?

*The Book of Shadows* is a personal, intimate journey through the year. It's theme is connection. Connection with yourself, with the world that surrounds you and with Life itself. If connection calls to you, join us on the email discussion line [Shadows02@topica.com](mailto:Shadows02@topica.com).





## The Priestess Path

### Foundations, Legacies, and Heritage - Establishing a Field of Relatedness

This month's Priestess Paths focus on the ways we establish a foundation of comfort and recognition that enables others to join us on the path. How do we present ourselves in a way that others can relate to? How do we establish the foundations that let us venture out to explore? What are the legacies that guide us? How can we use our awareness of our own heritage and the heritage of others to establish trust and comfort?

### Here is what each group will explore:

**Small Group Facilitation:** For the February Small Group Facilitation Priestess Skills Path, we will explore ways of creating rapport by establishing a field of relatedness with others. We will look at being "user-friendly" in the physical, emotional, and spiritual areas. I invite you to join us at Mystery School and/or on email. Stepping onto the second circuit, Arden (ardenjg@netscape.net)

**Trance Language:** How do we speak in a language that leads others to explore safely the realms within and without? What is the language of trust that opens the power of the unconscious within the individual? What are the words that jar, disorient and detract from the work? Patricia (patricia@dianasgrove.com)

**Creating and Sustaining Healthy Community:** What are the foundations of the community that we seek to establish? This path of the labyrinth explores the desire to be interactive, to be in communion with others, to create healthy, sustainable community. Gwenyth (gwenyth@dianasgrove.com)

**Ritual Arts:** Intention is the foundation of our rituals. The deliberate use of intention allows rituals to be flexible and organic. It allows us, as priestesses, to make rituals meaningful and responsive in the moment. It allows us to support the ritual and the group and rather than the ritual plan. Intention makes room. It allows rituals to breathe and live. This weekend we will learn about and work with the magic of Intention. Jane (Jane@dianasgrove.com)

**The Gathering:** What draws individual energy into group energy? How do you create connection? The skill circuit of the Gathering Labyrinth for Feb. is presence, focus, field of relatedness. The first step for the Priestess on this path: The magic of energy. Katie or Rena (JourneysKR@aol.com)

**The work of the various Priestess Paths will be discussed on line.** Each path has it's own line. There will be information posted to each list about the upcoming plan for the weekend and a follow-up post that summarizes the work that was actually done. The list is also available to discuss topics specific to each Priestess Path. If you are coming to the Grove, even just once, and plan to attend one of these groups, contact the group facilitator about joining the email discussion.



## Metaphysical and Metaphor

by Cynthia Jones

It is the second month of Mystery School. We enter the first ring of the labyrinth which is, in truth, the third path. The third path takes us around and then, it turns into the second. This year, we talk about the labyrinth from the walker's point of view. So often it is described as it is seen with the eagle's eye, a pattern observed but not entered. Forgive me and trust your feet... the first is third if you were to look down upon it and count your way across its mystery. The second is the second. The third, however, is the first... I could go on but if I do I will lose myself and that is the point.

We enter the Labyrinth this month as Mysteries walking a path called Foundations. We learned to walk from those who walked before us. We mimic their steps because they are the only steps we see.

This first journey into the labyrinth wears the name of history. If you are a woman, call it herstory. You will look at the world you inherited, you can touch your own subconscious. The unquestioned realities of those who came before us shape the world we live in.

This path is associated with the base chakra. If you were to sit upon the earth, this is the place where roots begin. The first chakra is associated with daily life survival. This year, this path is dedicated to Cronus, also known as Saturn. This time-keeper, lesson-giver, and truth-teller, has been severed from his history. He is an agricultural God. High Priest of the harvest, he knew when things were ripe. Curved blade, his scythe cut the wheat. How has he gotten a name we fear... perhaps we don't know when we are ripe? He cuts us free from our illusions, and rarely do we thank him for the gift.

Things made with Cronus' blessing last. They last because they are slowly made, crafted from a weathered reality. I know of no one better to ask about history. I know of no one better to join you as you craft a legacy. May you walk with time as you walk the first circle of the mystery.

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### The Hero's Connection

I am the hero in the half-light of the waning moon,  
Walking with my promise on wild ground,  
Waves of cedar above me as I wander,  
Darkness of the forest holding what can be found.

I am the hero in the blueness of the new moon,  
Kneeling by the blurred night edge of the lake,  
Nutty spice of hawthorne blossoms at my side,  
Breath of the night I breathe for my sake.

I am the hero in the shimmer of the crescent moon,  
Climbing amidst the cool, smooth tumble of stones,

Sweet crush of clover flowing between rocks.  
The shape of the mountain is a place in my bones.

I am the hero in the speckled light of the full moon,  
Lying flat in the meadow, my fingers testing the air,  
Peppery soft freshness of grass bending around me,  
The silver touch of the moon is a comb through my hair.

Blessed be,  
Shaun Moffitt



## The Tools of Mystery (part 2) - by Teri Parsley Starnes

“That which is below is like that which is above, and that which is above is like that which is below, to bring about the miracle of Unity.” Hermes Trismegistus

Above and below, within and without, astrology begins to weave a story about our spirits by taking meaning from the activity of nature. Another tool of astrology, the signs of the zodiac, is found in observing the qualities of the seasons and the elements. There are 12 signs which traditionally begin in Spring with the sign of Aries, a fire sign. There are two more fire signs, Leo and Sagittarius. Each season has a beginning (Cardinal), middle (Fixed) and transitional period (Mutable) which correspond to what we call the modalities. There is only one Cardinal fire sign—Aries, one Fixed fire sign—Leo and one Mutable fire sign—Sagittarius. The differentiating energy of all these fire signs is the unique modality of each. Aries which begins the season of Spring, has a drive to begin projects, Leo which holds the energy of Summer has a drive to shine for all to see, as dependable as the Sun itself, and Sagittarius, which moves between the Fall and Winter, has a drive to explore, to see what is around the corner as the season changes. This pattern holds true for the other 3 elements as well. One way to connect to the energy of the zodiac is to create a mandala of elements and modalities. Begin to see the similarities between signs of the same element and the differences that the modalities make.

A birthchart is a circle divided into 12 houses which correspond to 12 areas of life. The houses represent the arch of the sky above us and the equal arch hidden below us. A line runs horizontally through the chart, all the houses below that line are below the horizon, all the houses above it are above the horizon. Your chart places you in the center of the circle that is the sky around. The room that a planet lives in will also change the flavor of that planet, much as the sign changes the qualities of that planet. Where was the Sun when you were born? The Sun at the zenith of the sky has an entirely different focus than the Sun at midnight. The houses tell us about the relationship between the self and the sky. They also will tell which planetary God to consult when you want to know about relationships, career or any other important part of life. The key to a house is the planetary ruler of the sign that begins the boundary of that house, which we call the cusp. If the sign Gemini is at the beginning of your relationship house, the planet Mercury, since it rules Gemini, will have a lot to say about your relationships.

We are all familiar with the Greek myths that have the Gods conferring and sometimes arguing with each other on Mt. Olympus. The aspects between planets are a lot like that. Aspects are particular geometric distances between planets that create a dialog between the planets. Sometimes the dialog is harmonious, sometimes it is challenging, and sometimes argumentative. It all depends on which aspect. It is through the aspects that we receive our blueprint for growth from the Gods. These aspects can identify areas of life where we have extra resources and other areas of life where we can encounter patterns of growth-producing frustration! With the aspects between planets we begin to locate ourselves in the stately dance of planetary cycles. Over the course of a few days in the case of the fast-moving Moon, or in the course of decades or centuries, in the case of the slow-moving outer planets, the planets come together and separate and come together again, creating evolutionary growth.

Planets, signs, houses and aspects are the primary tools of Mystery that astrologers use to place ourselves within the wisdom of nature. By looking around us we are able to look within. After years of astrological study, I still find new meaning when I meditate on these tools and on the wonder of the stars around me.

**We have begun some great astrological discussions on [Astrology02@Topica.Com](mailto:Astrology02@Topica.Com).  
Please join us if you are also inspired by the sky.**



### Community Offerings

The **Midwest Reclaiming Intensive** will be held June 8-15, 2002 at Diana's Grove. This year's theme will be "Demeter's Song" with a focus on abundance and prosperity. Full details available at [www.dreamweaving.org](http://www.dreamweaving.org).

**Chicago.** Workshop on **Ecstatic Ritual** - connecting to the Elements and the Divine through rhythm, voice, and movement with T. Thorn Coyle and Teresa Roberts. March 29, 2002 7-10pm. All-day workshop on "**The Black Heart of Innocence**", a tool of the Feri tradition inviting us to explore our connection to the deepest parts of our souls. With T. Thorn Coyle and Teresa Roberts, March 30, 2002 from 10am-9pm - Contact Teresa at [LabyrinthTR@aol.com](mailto:LabyrinthTR@aol.com) for more details.

**Michigan: Cybeles:** for details: 231-828-5666 or [info@cybeles.com](mailto:info@cybeles.com) or [www.cybeles.com](http://www.cybeles.com)  
March 1-3, **Frame Drum, Voice and Movement workshop with Glen Velez.** Glen will introduce his unique teaching style, the HANDANCE METHOD - Tambourine and tar. No previous experience necessary.

**Kansas City** - contact The Gaia Community for rituals and workshops in this area. 816-931-9900 or on the web at [www.gaiacommunity.org](http://www.gaiacommunity.org)

### Coming Events at the Grove

**February - A 4-Day Drum and Trance Intensive.** This weekend is open to Mysteries and Friends. If you want to throw yourself into the language of change, this weekend is for you. It will work with trance language, dedicating your voice to speaking to the deep self, using the drum to awaken the dreamer within, and to providing opportunities for all participants to offer trance to the group. Learn the basics or deepen your skills. We consider this weekend to be a tutorial with lots of time, opportunities and individual attention.  
\$220

**Opening Mystery School II.** Yes - January Mystery School is full, but if you want a second chance to be first - come on! This month is dedicated to foundations. We will meet the seasons that hold the Corners of the Universe and the Grandmother of Time. We will light the first circuit of the Labyrinth.  
\$190

**March... That month of Contracts - Relating** - A Weekend for Mysteries, Friends, Partners and Families. A weekend to lay the cornerstones in a relationship that matters - be that with a lover, friend, or as a Circle. The focus - Contract and Agreements, Communicating with those who matter most, and Understanding the Nature of Personal Reality.  
Early Reg. \$165

**Women's Spring Equinox** - This Open weekend - Open to friends we have yet to meet - will bring together Mysteries, women new to the Grove and a few Equinoxians - women who make this weekend a part of their spring planting. It is a great way to introduce the Grove to your women friends. Demeter (Ceres) is looking forward to having time to tell her story with the help of Hecate and Persephone (Kore) - of course.  
Early Reg. \$165

**March Mystery School - Contracts with the Divine...** Sign up quick. This weekend is filling up. Poseidon is glad. He really wants a lot of witnesses at this one.  
Early Reg \$165



## Skippy Speaks - She Really Does Know-It-All

Ah, ha! She-Who-Writes-The-Packets thought to foil me. I promised to "Tell All" and you know how the Gods and Goddesses feel about those who steal treasures from Olympus for mere mortals. If not, ask Prometheus how his liver is these days. One does have to ask what would a mongrel pup, with little formal education, living in the back woods of Missouri with a bunch of crazy old women know about legacy and prophecy?

For a moment, but only a moment, I was stumped. What did I, an abandoned orphan, left to fend for myself in the wilds know about legacy and prophecy? It was only because of the welcoming hands of a kind Goddess or two that I survived at all. What did I know of legacy and prophecy? It was only out of necessity and inner drive that I rose from She-Who-Slept-On-The-Outside-Porch to She-Who-Runs-It-All. What did I know about legacy and prophecy?

Everything! I knew everything! I know everything there is to know about legacy and prophecy! I am a living incarnation of both my legacy and my prophecy. And if you were to ask me about the legacy and prophecy of those I live with, well I could tell you stories. But perhaps I should save those stories for another time. Yes, perhaps, it would be better if I waited until after I've found someone else to open the door to the Kibble's Closet.

And as for Nemesis and Moirae/fate, well can you think of anyone better than this backwoods country dog, abandoned as a wee small puppy, raised by nymphs and goddesses to speak of Fate?. And as I eventually rose to the leadership of a most peculiar pack of four legged and two legged creatures I learned well about Nemesis and her creatures, those skunks and coyotes. Finally, I believe the Moirae themselves took hold of my legend as I became Skippocles, the most famous One-Dog Greek Chorus in existence. If that's not moirae I don't know what is. I do acknowledge the possibility that I may be the only One-Dog-Greek-Chorus in existence, but that doesn't lessen the sheer stunningness of my achievement. Nor does it lessen my claim to know, I mean really know, about legacy and prophecy.

I could sing you the Homeric Hymn to Skippocles (it is just slightly finer than The Odyssey), but we don't have time. The best I can do is tell you how the legacy of my parents and their parents and their parent's parents gave me a keen mind, a strong and swift body, a glorious, healthy golden coat, superb eyesight, tenacity and courage and, of course, excellent "people skills". The rest was up to me. What would I do with all these riches? What would I do with the fact that originally those silly people saw none of these outstanding characteristics? All they saw was a poor pup they had rescued from certain death in the woods. All they saw was one more mouth to feed, one more creature to take care of. I was a muddy, scruffy puppy with no manners. I wasn't even allowed in the house!

It was up to me to fulfill the prophecy of my heritage. It was up to me to become She-Who-Rules-The-Roost. There was no mystical voice booming out of a hole in a rock telling the world who I was or even telling me what to do. I took the heritage of my legacy and I took what the world offered me (a really prime living situation if I could just learn what Pandora, the old, wise hound was trying to teach me) and I made my prophecy. I became SKIPPY! Now, that name has meaning way beyond young, scruffy puppy. I have become the prophecy of my legacy! And, yes, there was a little help along the way, but, after all, I had to be smart enough to take it.



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In this packet...

Your times are the parchment on which your legacy is written. That which you inherit and that which you leave behind, no matter how unique your script, your imprint is held on the parchment of your times. When I was born, the world was flat. The sun and moon revolved around it. I was born in Athens, in the center of the universe. That was my birthright. If you seek your legacy, it is written on your times. Look for it there.

