



Mystery School 2003
Patterns of Possibility

Archetype - Original pattern... A blueprint for possibility, essential inspiration.

The Reality Maker, The Invocator of the Mysteries, The Goddess' Abundant Blessings, The Bringer of Fair Winds... Eleven stories, eleven archetypes, eleven myths and then... eleven more. Each story begs you to step into a mystery. Can you hear it? "Step in - lose yourself, find yourself - discover that you are a part of...

the pattern of possibility."

Eleven next year, eleven the year after. Twenty-two - The Tarot has twenty-two Major Arcana cards, twenty-two Trump cards. Each one offers you a way to triumph. Next year, eleven stories. The year after that, eleven more. Each character can tell you how to triumph. Trump - They take the trick. They gather up the circumstances and say "I'll take those. I take them because I trump in this situation."

Have you guessed? Did I show my hand? Those twenty two stories will have a lot in common with the Tarot's Major Arcana. The stories, the myths of the coming year, aren't about the cards, they are about the characters who inspired the cards. They are about the "essential inspiration" that grew up to be a Major Arcana Card. Arcana means Mystery. Arcana means Teacher.

A pantheon of gods, goddesses and immortals will lead us on a journey. These characters will tell you their stories and secrets; they will ask you about yours. They will coax you to step between the worlds and meet them in the place of dreams. Will you come?

Next year's Mystery School will bring Mythology, Personal Growth, and Tarot together. And here is why... "*The hero finds that the forces of nature and of the unconscious are at his side. Insofar as the hero's acts coincide with that for which his society itself is ready, he seems to ride on the great rhythm of the historical process. Personifications of his destiny guide and aid him.*"

Joseph Campbell

It is in the "insofar as" part that I want to talk about. "*The hero's acts coincide with that for which his society is ready.*" Now what does that mean? Minos would say that we are supported by the forces of nature and our own subconscious when what we are called to do "makes right the knot in our kingdom," when our goals serve a larger world, a larger cause, than our own.

The Tarot tells us about the weave of life, the pattern of a soul's becoming. When we act in accordance with that pattern, when we support the natural rhythm of growth - no, more than support - when we are a part of that rhythm, we understand the language of the world. Next year is devoted to the pattern, the song of life, and to each individual sound within the song.



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

By Jane Holt

It is September. The time when nature gives up her harvest and begins to shift her energies towards her roots. It is the beginning of the cycle of completion. Life begins its journey into the depths.

We turn into the last rung of the labyrinth. This rung will take us to the center. It will take us face to face with the Minotaur. "That which we seek is seeking us." Are you holding back? Are you hoping that no one will notice as you slip back down the passage way, back towards the entrance? Have you discovered that you would prefer to be lost among the winding tunnels rather than face whatever waits in the center? Have you stumbled upon a shadow that you really don't want to look at...a shadow perhaps too close to your heart and therefore, one that can't be intellectualized into resolution? Is there a shadow that has been secretly hidden in the depths of your life, your heart for a long time? Does this shadow have power because it is well hidden?

I have. I have seen glimpses of something buried deep in my heart. It is old, very, very old. This shadow has power because it is old. It is about love that needs to be earned not given. It is about losses that can never be regained, only grieved for. It is about wounds that can't be healed, only brought into the light and embraced in a life well lived. It is about the lifelong hope that someday my mother might love me unconditionally simply because I am. It is about laying that hope to rest and finally growing up.

I step onto the last rung. Stumbling around in the dark, I know my old way of handling my issues will not work with this one. I am unsure what to do. I'm not sure if the Minotaur is a god or a demon. I don't know how to approach him. I don't know how to approach myself. I am scared. I feel very young and scared.

I don't know how to approach my heart. This year is a journey to the heart. Now that I am almost there I don't know what to do. How do I communicate with a wounded heart? My intuition tells me to use a combination of awe, caution, and gentleness, as if I were approaching a wounded animal. My intellect tells me that these are simply old memories, tattered feelings that are remnants of a childhood lost. They aren't real anymore. Why worry about a conversation about something that happened long ago? Why dredge up past history? Can you possibly have a conversation with your own heart? Can you possibly not have a conversation with your own heart?

What happens when I open a dialogue with my heart about our secrets? What will happen when I ask my heart to release those shadows into the light? When I acknowledge fully this deep, old wound, will that change my relationship with myself? Will that change my relationship with all of you? How will it change my relationship with the world that surrounds and supports me?

I hear the Minotaur ask: Who will you be when you are no longer haunted by his shadow? Who will you be when the demon no longer has power in your life? Who will you be when you learn to wrap yourself around your wounds and give them the care and love they need in order for you to be able to lay them to rest? The Minotaur's questions are unsettling. I don't know the answers. Is it too late to go back? What do I really want?

I ask myself, what do I want? Who am I? Who am I really? Who inside of me chooses to face the Minotaur? Who cries "retreat"? Who seeks the center? Who have I lost in the dimness of the labyrinth's tunnels?

The shadow has stayed hidden for so many years. The defenses are tall and strong. Is it time for them to come down? Have enough years passed? Is it time to admit that in order to be whole the damage in the foundation needs to be uncovered? I am finally ready to mourn the death of what can never be in order to dedicate my life to what is and what can be. I am finally ready to believe that I am perfect in my imperfection and that life is imperfectly perfect. This could be the way to approach myself. My grown-up heart whispers "yes". Could this be a way for you to approach yourself?



Wings and Warnings

by Teri Parsley Starnes

Icarus asks "Do you want to touch the Sun? When should you heed the warnings of your parents and teachers? When are they just holding you back...?" *The Book of Shadows*

Icarus' story is one of yearning and warning. We all live within the tension of this opposition — sometimes eager to fly and other times rooted in a desire for safety. Much of life is spent yearning and wondering about where we are destined to fly while we struggle to find accord between what is confining about family heritage and what is useful and grounding. Ideally, through the course of our lives, we move to a place of wisdom and integration between these two poles.

An opposition in astrology, when two planets or points are directly opposite each other in a chart, is a cue that we will learn a truth about ourselves by integrating a polarity. Sometimes this integration happens only after many instances of polarizing into the extreme points of the opposition, or by inviting someone else into our lives who will take on the role of one of the ends so that we can play the role of the other end. The opposition is a dance, much like the dance between Icarus and Daedalus. Icarus wanted to be great like his father yet also great like himself. Daedalus wanted to give his son wings but also desired that he not fly too high. Conflicting, opposing desires can keep us agonizing over the direction we should go. Learning to fly is not an instantaneous event. I know I have experienced many false starts, sudden crashes to earth and times of fear while I learn to use my wings. Everyone has oppositions in their charts, even if you have no planets that are opposite each other, because the chart is a circle. Every house has an opposite house, every sign has an opposite sign, and two very important points in the chart also have very important oppositions. The ascendant is opposite the descendant and the midheaven is opposite the nadir. The ascendant is an identity we live inside of and the descendant is an identity we project onto others through relationships. When we integrate this polarity, we see ourselves as whole and are given the gift of being able to see others as they are.

Important to the story of wings and warnings, the opposition of the midheaven and the nadir gives us the information we need to fly and to ground. The midheaven is the point at the zenith of the zodiac when we are born. It forms the cusp or beginning of the 10th house, which is the place we aspire to achieve. Like Icarus we beat our wings strongly with an eye toward a star that tells a story about our greatness. That star is the sign on the midheaven. We can learn about our aspirations by looking at the qualities of the sign on the midheaven, at any planets that might be in the 10th house, and at the position of the ruler of the sign on the midheaven. Each sign is ruled by a particular planet. In my case, with Libra on the midheaven, I look at where Venus, the ruler of Libra, is in my chart. It is in Pisces in the 3rd house of communication. I aspire to create transcendence and beauty through words.

Pulling on me from the other direction is the nadir. This point is directly opposite the midheaven and runs through the earth to the opposite constellation below the horizon. The nadir forms the cusp of the fourth house of family, roots, and heritage. Here we can find out about the limitations we may feel about success, as well as the unique ground of genius we have inherited from our families. For me, I am learning about Aries issues. My Sun and Mercury, which gives me the mind to do the writing that I so love, are in this house. I inherited from my father a love of philosophy and also a fear of making mistakes. This polarity is my lesson plan for greatness.

Somewhere along the continuum of dreams and fears, there is the wisdom to keep me soaring without crashing. I can look to the 10th and 4th houses to give me information about my wings and the warnings I have inherited.



Skippy Speaks – Her Angst Overwhelms Her, But She’s Still Got All The Answers

Oh, my gosh! Suddenly it’s September; Icarus is falling, the Minotaur is missing, Minos’s kingdom is crumbling, Ariadne and Theseus are leaving Crete for their own destinies, and Pasiphae is still the daughter of an island and a god, regal in her own mystery. And Daedalus is still Daedalus. There, I think that’s a fine summary of where we find ourselves in this story. Not a very comfortable place mind you, but a place full of story: Yours and Theirs.

This is a great story. Who would have guessed that a story about a disadvantaged bovine wandering around an ambiguous, digressive path would be so rich and full? This story deserves to be told around every campfire, every hearth fire, every bar-b-que pit, hibachi, and gas grill. Yummmm, dogs love listening to stories told around gas grills. This story just keeps getting better no matter where it’s told. There is a twist at every corner, a secret in every room, a shadowed nuance in every paragraph and the promise of possibility for each and every reader. It is filled with yearnings and promises, suspense and drama, passion and tragedy, intrigue and mystery. What a story! With the cast of thousands I plan for the movie, it will rival *The Ten Commandments*...! “ And the winner of this year’s Oscar for directing is...Skippy!” But.....

There is so much the story teller hasn’t told us yet. Just who was that old man with the wine and the fancy ring? Was Pasiphae really mad or was she perhaps a highly evolved Pleidian here on a mission? (just a thought, don’t get your kibbles riled) What’s going to happen to Ariadne? Does she get to go out carousing with Dionysus, or does she have to stay home and mind the kids? And just who is going to tell the tales of Dias? I need to know because I care about each and every one of them. I especially care about that poor Minotaur. What has happened to him? I must know! We’ve done a bit of bonding this year, I would even say we’ve grown fond of each other. Where is she? Why isn’t he in the center? These bulls, they just keep disappearing. What’s the deal? How are we going to find out if the story teller stops writing?

I have a plan. We get the characters in the story to help us. Minos can strike a too-good-to-resist bargain with Cynthia. She’ll fall for it and he can always renege afterwards. After all, what’s she going to do, shake his foundations the way she shakes yours? Well, possibly. I figure Cynthia and Poseidon have a lot in common; both being Tidal Wave Makers and Earth Shakers. If Cynthia doesn’t fall for Minos’s “Have I got a deal for you” plan, we’ll entice Pasiphae to help us. We’ll be eloquent and passionate in our plea. We’ll get the Mysteries in Texas to send her an outrageously beautiful and sensual ceramic bull just like the one they gave to the Grove. Trust me, Pasiphae won’t be able to resist something that beautiful, she’ll fall in love all over again.

Those characters, they’ll whisper into the Story Teller’s ear each night; some can whisper untold pieces of their own stories, others can hint at concealed meanings and unique understandings, a few can simply beg her not to let them be forgotten or misunderstood. They’ll make it impossible for Cynthia to stop writing about them. It’s a great plan, I like it and I believe you Mysteries can get Minos and his extended family to help us.

What can we offer these oh-so-alive mythic beings in return for their help? What can you give them? They’ve already become archetypes and demi-gods, what more is there? I’ve got it! If someone hangs around this long, 3500 years or so, give or take a few hundred, it must be for a good reason. My guess is they want their stories to be told and more importantly, they want them to be heard. They must want your attention. Oh, you Mysteries are so lucky, it takes a very clever dog, such as myself, to figure out solutions this labyrinthine. I’ll bet these characters want to know that you’ve heard their story. Minos and Pasiphae, Daedalus and Icarus, Ariadne and Theseus, they’ll be gone soon. Perhaps the Minotaur already is. But you still have time. You still have time to be touched by their story. You still have time to let them know you’ve heard.

How? How can you let them know you’ve heard? My dear Mysteries, I can’t give you *all* the answers.



Coming Events

Rites of Passage: The Mythic Quest - Yes finally, the center of the Labyrinth. Ariadne's Thread, Daedalus' maze, the hero faces the Minotaur. A Rite of Passage is a ritual of transformation. The Rites team will live the story's end for us and with us. If you aren't with us in body, join us in spirit. Housing is very full... Call quick if you ~~plan to come~~ **October 16th - 20th**

Samhain: Summer's End - And the beginning of a new pattern. We will tell myths of rebirth and regeneration. We will honor those who have gone on. We will continue our special tradition of an ancestor's fire on Saturday afternoon. Saturday night will take us into the depths that will let us reach out and touch life. Join us as we honor both life and death. Join us as we honor all who have the courage to live. **November 1st - 3rd**

November Mystery School: The Epilog - Time doesn't stop, although it does stand still. After the end, the story goes on. I really don't like the way this story ends and here is why... it ends with a series of moral fables that tell you what will happen if you:

- Run off to an enchanted island with your lover
- Forget to change the sail - today that would be the "forget to call" parable
- Fall in love with a king's wife
- Ignore a prophecy

The November Mystery School will invite you to be Myth Makers. What truth do we want to tell with our stories? What kind of outcome could be a "moral tale" for our changing times? What are the consequences? What are the rewards? We will create the end and make right the knot in our kingdom. **November 15th - 17th**

For Mysteries and Friends

The Crones Weekend: This is a retreat weekend dedicated to Crones. Women only, regardless of age - this weekend will be a celebration of women's wisdom and that particularly rich wisdom that comes with years well spent. If you want to celebrate with the Crones or just enjoy a regenerative women's weekend, come and bring a friend.

November 8th - 10th

Remember!!

Freeing Your Voice - Singing Your Own Song - with Mimi Baczewska. Do you want an opportunity to find your singing voice, expand your personal song or just sing for the joy of it? Mimi works magic with individuals and groups. She claims that the power of sound and our own voices is healing. After working with her, I believe her.

October 11th - 13th

Ubaka Hill - Drum Song: Beyond the Edge. - A weekend of drumming for women only. Drummers, Dancers, Chanters, and Rhythm Makers, join us as we heat up the late October glow. Winter- yes, look for her at the top of that ridge. She'll be having a fine time. She surely does enjoy a rowdy group of women, unafraid to stare her down with the heat and the beat of their drums. **October 25th - 27th**