



The Analytical Psychology Club of New York, Inc.
A Gathering Place for Self-Discovery

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PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

JOSEPH MOORE: PhD, LCSW, PSYCHOTHERAPIST

May 2020

This will be my last "President's Reflections" column. While I may write other articles for the bulletin or even the website, this is the last one of this kind for me. What to write? I could write a summation of my tenure. Alas for me, this would be boring. If someone else wants to evaluate this, fine. I could write about the "Liar in the White House," but if you don't know by now, I will not change your mind. So here goes my last!

A couple of weeks ago, I had a Zoom session with the APC Board just to see faces and find out how everyone was doing. Peter Gradilone mentioned a pod cast with Dr. Dennis Merritt, a Jungian Analyst in Madison, Wisconsin who is the author of 4-volume series, The Dairy Farmer's Guide to the Universe: Jung, Hermes, & Ecopsychology published by Fisher King Press. In listening to the pod cast, I was reminded of how important the god, Hermes, was to Jung.

What connected was that years ago Hermes resonated with me also. The pod cast felt synchronistic. Why did he emerge now again? For Jung, Hermes was the god of the unconscious and the guide to inner journey to the soul. In fact, Hermes was seen as relevant to the experience of synchronicity. As a therapist, I, too, am a guide to the inner journey. At those moments, Hermes is very present to me.

Hermes is also seen as the divine trickster. After all, he is the god of thieves. When I drew my totem animal cards, I knew beforehand, that I would pick a coyote, the trickster, and I did in the space of my child. There is a Pan-like quality to Hermes. Before I became conscious, I hid behind a Peter Pan sense of self. I would often sing: "I won't grow up." I won't become a conscious adult. If you only see Pan, you don't really see me. In fact, I did not see the true me.

I believe that when Hermes came into my being, I began the journey to conscious and individuation. Hermes is the god of transitions and interpretations. Hermes helped me to transition from unconsciousness to consciousness. He helped me along with my therapists to interpret my dreams.

But why now again? Will I be taking different trips to the underground than I did as president of APC?

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST EVENT by Frederick S. Gurzeler

November 3rd (2018) brought Juana Yepes, analyst in training, to the APC and the New Directions Program to deliver a presentation entitled: *Fundamentals of Astrology: Meeting the Sky Wanderers Within*.

Ms. Yepes soon made it clear that much was to be learned from the fundamentals. In fact at times, she appeared to move rapidly through her presentation in order to cover the topic sufficiently within the time allotted.

Astrology as conceived, was nurtured by ancient civilizations connected with Astronomy. It endures today in modern form. Young people in particular are keeping astrology alive. Astrology has philosophical implications. It's believed that the position of the planets is related to human behavior. Jung viewed astrology as a kind of causality connected with theology and cosmology. Jungian thought has influenced western astrology. There are different versions of astrology. Modern astrology embraced a Hellenistic version by youth. Psychological astrology evolved in connection with Jung's tool for self-knowledge. A conception of what is called the *zodiac* or circle, takes into account the lineup of the paths of the Sun, the moon and the planets and how these relate to the signs used in astrology.

The horoscope was developed as a means of observing the position of the planets and stars in relation to one another at a given time, especially as this relates to a person's birth. A schematic version or what is referred to as the Natal chart, reveals the time of human birth in line with the planets. An alignment of human experience takes shape in the form of houses that signify a significant meaning, such as one's sense of worth. With these houses an inner circle is conceptualized which contain symbols for the sun and planets. The connection between planets tells about their relationship to one another. Planets affect a particular moment of time and the quality of that connection. The word "planet" is derived from the Greek: *planetes*, or wanderer.

Planets represent psychic drives or archetypes as symbols of an aspect of living or functioning; specifically human or animal behavior. Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, the outer planets of our solar system, are now included in the concept of astrology or zodiac. The planets relate to one another as psycho dynamic voices within the zodiac or psychic drives and natural drives. Planets affect the moment of birth.

The Sun is symbolic of consciousness, the ego, a source of guidance, and provider of personal coherence, an expression of our spirit and vitality; *the moon*: a companion planet that controls mood and holds the clue to our mood, our intuition and to the mother or how we nourish ourselves; *Mercury*: the trickster, a definition of mind and regulates our perspective and stimulates our ability to process information; *Venus*, the goddess of love. provides our drive to relate to others, seeking love and harmony; *Mars*: The god of war, its two moons Phobos and Deimos represent the capacity for assertion, a source of courage; *Jupiter*: abundance, a capacity to experience faith, optimism, blessing and gratitude, the king of the gods; *Saturn*: the god of time, symbolizes boundaries, fear, limitation, self-discipline; *Uranus*: generational, moving slowly, the theme of a generation, axis tilted, unique movements, the first planet discovered with a telescope, sky god of Prometheus who stole fire, pushes us to go against conventions, true to itself; *Neptune*: discovered by Galileo, a planet that's a gas giant, connected to imagination, reinforces the spiritual dimension of life drives to idealism, a relationship to the spiritual; *Pluto*: discovered in 1930, represents the underworld, named with the Greek word: Pluton, meaning rich, power and primal energy, magnetic, deeply endowed with great passion and power, the reality of evil.

Astrology speaks through the symbolism of the twelve signs of the zodiac separate from the constellations. Astrology is profoundly personal, it speaks through personal experience or the *poetry of Astronomy*. It is not about the physical or scientific meaning of the cosmos, but about the emotional aspect, such as the different signs: air, water etc., or how the elements *feel*; about earth: solid, concrete as related to Jung's typology. Astrology reflects change. The time of birth indicates one's position in the zodiac. All the aspects of the zodiac are about integration

Check Out APC's Website: <http://jungclubnyc.org>

Our website contains information about the Club, our programs, the on-line Bulletin, and information about the Kristine Mann Library. There are two other areas that we feel members might find especially interesting:

Community: Here members can add their personal writings to our website, whether poetry or prose. We hope members will feel free to write about what Jung has meant to their growth to individuation. Please send submissions to: contact@jungclubnyc.org and note Website Submission in the Subject Line.

Jung's Mind: Once a week, quotes from Jung are uploaded to this blog located on the website. We hope that this offers members an opportunity to communicate with each other about Jung's writings. Short comments are great because they lead to online conversations.

APC EVENTS

Following guidelines from the CDC regarding social distancing, we regret to inform you that all workshops and Tuesday Evening Discussions have been canceled. However, we look forward to resuming the workshops and Tuesday Evening Discussions in the Fall.

Poem

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

-- John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings



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