

Surviving as a Change Agent

Astrology for Soul Evolution

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Posted October 3, 2006, on my blog at the time, www.astrologyforsoulevolution.blogspot.com.

An e-mail from a friend prompted me to post some thoughts about how we as individuals can practically utilize Chiron's and Prometheus' energies. (These comments also pertain to a large extent to transformation agents with intense Pluto/Scorpio and/or black-hole energy.)

First, I see the difference between Chiron and Prometheus as a matter of degree. They are both vital change agents.

Prometheus is the great visionary. We need visionaries who are assimilating Uranian/Promethean energy into themselves and thus becoming carriers of those intense frequencies of societal transformation. But playing the role of Prometheus is tricky. One may get so far ahead of how things are now that one becomes disconnected and ineffective. There's the practical question of how one earns a living if one is so far ahead of others that hardly anyone else understands what one is doing. Also, carrying a new vision so far ahead of what others can presently see and support may become such a strain that the person becomes brittle and defensive, defending the vision from a lower ego stance, losing flexibility and the ability to continue to grow the vision. So the vision gets stuck in mid-development, as does the person. After all, Aquarius is a fixed sign, change sign though it may claim to be. Must a Promethean get stuck? No. *Star Wars'* Anakin did, but Luke did not.

If we only had Promethean change energy descending, then life would be a continuous battle between the new vision and the status quo incapable of seeing it. It is likely that little or no growth would result. That's where Chiron comes in, bridging between both worlds with evolutionary change.

"Doing" Chiron can be quite tricky, too. Bridging between the old and the new can both feel lonely and produce friction with those on both ends of the bridge. Prometheus may get impatient with Chiron's slower pace. Saturn may dislike Chiron just as much as Prometheus, feeling threatened by any kind of change. There are times when Chiron must confront an overly rigid Saturn, informing him that he's going to have to change one way or another—the



question is how quickly, not whether or not to change. And there are times when Chiron may unwittingly slip into becoming the status quo himself, captured by Saturn's energy pulling on him—he may get too conservative and hesitant about change, losing his flexibility and ability to continue to grow into the vision which is emerging.

Organizations of necessity have at least a certain amount of Saturn in them. Saturn rules both Capricorn and Aquarius. Capricornian organizations tend to have a clearly defined top-down power structure and can excel in accomplishing tasks which have been clearly defined. That's appropriate for them. However, I have observed that they are often hostile to the presence of a Chironian or Promethean person who carries change energy. I have seen this hostility arise even if the person is trying to mind his or her own business and is not trying to change anything—the mere fact that the change energy is in his/her aura can be enough to upset some overly rigid folks within the system.

And it can even invite an attack from the system itself. I was a legal secretary for 12 years. (How I survived that I really don't know.) Even though I have some pronounced Saturn in my chart, Chiron and Uranus/Prometheus are pronounced, too. As I grew more and more into my own Chironian and Promethean nature, my mere presence became an increasing irritant to the status-quo-oriented legal system in which I was working, and I was backstabbed by the administrations of several firms. (It even happened once when I was working as a long-term temp!) My last "permanent" job lasted three months, which I quit after being rewarded for what they said was stellar work by being required to work for an abuser, which I would not do. I finally gave up trying to earn my living in that way.

And then there are necessary citizen interactions with governmental bureaucracies which can often go awry for no good reason. All it takes is for the citizen involved to be a change agent by nature. I just today discovered that my husband's and my car title has been sitting in a file in the Records Room in Jefferson City, Missouri, since December 2005. It should have been mailed to us promptly after processing. But no—it seems that some clerk reacted to the energy coming through the paper and buried it in the Records Room, which was not standard procedure. A thoughtful, caring, non-Saturnian employee found it for me. I bet that many of you out there have similar stories to share.

But some Chironian/Promethean folks do survive and contribute constructively within organizations. To me, the question is: Is the organization open to change? I feel that the best way of answering that is by watching how it treats its employees/members. (This applies to volunteering in nonprofits as well.) I have observed that some seemingly Aquarian organizations whose



stated mission is advocating change in actuality can be quite dictatorial and rigid in-house. It seems to be a common shadow side of Aquarius—projecting Uranus/Prometheus out into the world but acting Saturnian inwardly. Chironian and Promethean folks who are part of these organizations need to watch out for that shadow side so that it doesn't broadside them or so that they don't slip into dysfunctional Saturnian behavior themselves.

Strangely, in some cases Chironian/Promethean folks may be better off working in a healthy Capricornian organization with a clear, nonprogressive mission while being a change agent outside work rather than working for a dysfunctional Aquarian organization which is in actuality hostile to change.

Fortunately, there are healthy Aquarian organizations out there. Generally, though, I feel that the change agents who will flourish in them will tend to be Chironian or mildly Promethean. Extreme Prometheus does not tend to fit into any kind of organizational box.

In addition to advocacy organizations, some of which may still have a top-down Saturnian inner structure, another type of Aquarian organization is the democracy. This is an interesting hybrid between formal organizations and Aquarian networks. If the organization is healthy, the employees/members/citizens actively participate in the group's self-governance. If the group's size is larger than a handful of people, there tends to be a need for a person or board to act as coordinator of the group. However, that person/board is not dictatorial; the members are in control of the group's agenda.

If such a democracy is not healthy, though, it can devolve into a passive flock of members who expect the leader/board to set the agenda and tell them what to do. This also does not tend to be a good place for Chironian and Promethean folks. The growth dynamic has been lost, and the board and/or members may prove hostile to one's attempts at resparking growth. Is it worth a try? I've come to see that it all depends. Whether a group will respond seems to be often dependent on not easily observable factors in the group subconscious. I have found, though, for you astrologers out there, that the group's chart usually tells the story. It appears to be more difficult, though not impossible, for a group to rise above the challenges in its chart than for individuals. The group still has free will, but as a group's free will is spread out among its members, it tends to be more diffuse. I have seen seemingly long-term evolutionary group progress wiped out with one transit reawakening subconscious dysfunctional group patterns—such backsliding can be very discouraging as well as draining to the Chironian change agent.



Democracies are only as good as the people in them. A Chironian or Promethean person may become scapegoated by such a group if the members by and large are not change agents themselves to some degree. So, again, little behaviors tend to tell the more accurate story regarding the nature of an individual or a group.

And then there are networks. Uranus rules the circulatory system and co- rules the nervous system. Networks are a wonderfully Uranian Aquarian organizational structure—or perhaps I should say semi-structure. They consist of fluid connections between people interacting and cooperating in some manner as equals. There are networks of friends, networks of mutual obligation, networks of people uniting to accomplish a particular purpose, etc. Networks tend to be non-hierarchical, composed of self-starting participants who take responsibility for themselves. If there is a leader at all, he/she serves as a coordinator, not a dictator. If any participant wants to disengage from the network at any time or if the other participants feel that the person no longer fits, the person exits the network, and the network will then often “self-heal” by attracting new participants and remapping itself in a new configuration.

Granted, networks and other non-hierarchical structures can be squirmy things, slithering like a group of worms out of one’s grasp. They are not always the best choice of structure. One time I heard about a situation where a non-hierarchical structure was superimposed on a governmental agency, which was a disaster because no one would ever take responsibility for solving problems—they just figured that “someone else” would do it, which of course didn’t happen.

But networks can excel in many areas of life, including Aquarian grassroots political action and other efforts at improving society. Informal networks can promote dynamic interactions among artists and creative types. Both Chironian and Promethean folks can flourish in healthy networks. But networks are only as good as their participants and the communication among them.

Again, strongly Promethean loners may have no use for any kind of interactive framework with others. But for the rest of us change agents, how to best utilize our efforts to further personal and collective growth in itself remains a dynamic and often elusive, frustrating challenge.



Comment posted in response to this entry:

Excellent insight, Kathleen! Thank you! This explains many of my job situations as a change agent. In my current dysfunctional, hierarchical, misogynistic organization that I'm in (which advocates change and self-determination and respect and inclusion for people with disabilities—but mistreats and invalidates its staff), I had to create quite a mask for myself in the beginning just to survive and get along with people. To quit would have been financial ruin. But I have been able to be more vocal and am listened to the longer I'm there. People who are not aware of the energies and oppression of that type of workplace and don't question it I think suffer psychic and soul damage. Thanks, again.

KLB
posted October 3, 2006