

Section 2: Specialist Techniques**Question Eight: Mythology****PLUTO**

To paraphrase Joseph Campbell; due to the variety of social systems and also the modes of nature-nurture that in the course of the millenniums have shaped and reshaped man's image of his world, so too the analysis of the myths and legends, besides certain themes and principles, have also been redefined or redeveloped.

How can we 'live by' myths today? Can mythic illusions really help to relieve our modern anxiety, or do they help only foster it? These are questions we may ask ourselves as we reflect on how if at all, myths continue to illustrate human needs.

Because of dwarf planet Pluto's highly elliptical orbit, it can spend anything from 11½ to 30½ years in a sign.

Last in Aquarius in 1778-1798 and now transiting Aquarius from 2024-2044 what common myths, themes, or principles, if any, around death, rebirth, and transformation may be reflected and/or evolved in the two decades dwarf planet Pluto will spend in Aquarius?

The Mythology of Pluto creates visions of penetrating darkness, delving into hidden depths to confront fears and unearth truths with the ultimate goal of transformation, a feeling of empowerment and of growth. The myths or themes relating to Pluto around death, rebirth and transformation can still be reflected within humanity today and as Pluto enters into Aquarius for the next 20 years they may play out in new ways to fit within our modern world.

Throughout this essay I will aim to explore what could potentially manifest with Pluto in Aquarius and the mythology in relation to it. Some of the key things that could develop and be impacted over time from this transit could be; changes within group dynamics and social structures, for example distribution of power and wealth among the classes. Uncovering and transforming perceptions in regards to diversity and healing group intolerances such as racism and equality between gender. There could also be profound and innovative systems emerging in science, technology and space exploration, to unearth truths of the natural world and beyond.

Looking further back in time to when Pluto was last in Aquarius in 1778 - 1798, reflects some of these themes which can give us an idea of what could potentially evolve. There was much rebellion between groups, the Northwest Indian war in the USA, the french revolution, King Louie and wife Marie Antoinette were guillotined outlining the inequality between rich and poor. And in science and technology, the innovative invention of the hot air balloon in 1783 which allowed humans to see the earth in a new perspective.

Pluto's archetype can be introduced through greek mythology by the tale of the great hero Hercules, where on his eighth task slays the Hydra. He must enter the dark domain of this nine-headed beast which has been terrorising humanity. As he cuts down each head, however a new head grows back. He realises instead of using brute force, he must be innovative. He goes into the muddy depths and lifts the monster up into the sunlight, where it withers and dies. And so her destructive power is diminished when brought up into the light. This story in mythology can empower us to become our own hero, to face and slay our own demons. The monster in the myth can represent our fears which are scary to confront, but if we do bring them into the light, to understand them, we will generally come out on the other side feeling like we are transformed, like we can conquer anything. If we can be innovative, something which is in Aquarian nature and think in a new way to solve problems as Hercules had to do, it can offer a new perspective in allowing healing and on a collective level gives hope to humanity as a whole. Pluto in Aquarius can shift our

awareness, it is about standing up to things within our society that have been hidden for too long, to create healing and change for the better. "In short, with Pluto in Aquarius, the ruling passion lies in a celebration of the human capacity to innovate in all ways, but most centrally in our capacity to reinvent ourselves."¹

The theme of death and rebirth which is reflected in Pluto mythology brings to light an ultimate fear that many people have and this is death itself, particularly in the western world where many have a view of a nothingness after death. Because of this, it can be scary to even think about and so it is mostly a topic people avoid. Maybe it's time to confront this ultimate fear and change the perception, to offer a new perspective on death that Pluto in Aquarius may bring. Science may have altered how we view religion/faith but it also has the potential to restore our faith in what is yet to be discovered, a new transformed view of an afterlife. Perhaps new and innovative systems within science (Aquarius) can be merged with the mystical or occult that Pluto represents. For example, investigating types of psychic phenomena such as recording the brainwaves of psychics/ mediums and studying the brain to discover what consciousness actually is, is it something that exists beyond the physical body? Could science reveal or confirm that human's have a spiritual side and a physical side, that we exist between two worlds or that we in fact exist in a cycle of reincarnation?

This theme can be illustrated by the following greek myth. Hades, known as Pluto to the romans, was the lord of the underworld and his domain pertained to the world of the dead. His queen Persephone meaning 'who is to be feared' was abducted by Hades and brought underground. Demeter, Persephone's mother could not stand the loss of her daughter and so Hermes was sent to retrieve her. Persephone was about to return to the surface, however she had eaten some pomegranite seeds whilst in the land of the dead which had transformed her being and already bound her to the underworld. Because of this, Hades agreed that she return above ground for nine months of the year to be united with her Mother but for the rest of the time she must remain with him as his wife in his domain. And so this theme of being of two worlds, alternating between the light and dark, unconscious and conscious, spiritual and physical is apparent. With it also comes the acceptance of death and the cycles of life. Could modern technology today unearth any of these mysteries of life? "Whether one views Persephone's return to the underworld as a yearly cycle representing the seasons, as a human cycle representing the losses and gains one

¹ FORREST, S. *The Book of Pluto*. ACS Publications, San Diego, USA, 1994, p.182

experiences in life, or as the soul's journey to the underworld (afterlife) and back to the next body (reincarnation), her myth has become one of the most often enacted dramas regarding life and death.”²

Space exploration as mentioned earlier may be another key subject for the time of Pluto in Aquarius, unravelling the mysteries of the universe through advanced technology and quantum physics; blackholes, alien life forms. These could also represent the myth of the monster in the darkness as these unknown things can create fear within society. They also have the potential to wipe out our entire earth and reflect the destructive nature of Pluto. By exploring our cosmos, could we unearth new laws and effects that we didn't think were possible? And by learning, we may realise positive traits and potentials rather than something to be afraid of.

As Pluto is a symbol of power and wealth, and Aquarius strives for humanitarian causes, the way we distribute wealth among society and nations of peoples may come into focus as in the example mentioned earlier with the reign of King Louie in France. “The Roman God Pluto was associated with wealth because the ancients measured earthly wealth in mineral (i.e., gold and silver) terms. Because minerals came from beneath the earth, they were part of Pluto's realm.”³ There are already rising costs of living and many who are struggling. The wealthy who are only a tiny minority still seem to become richer and with the wealth comes power. Could there be a rebellion of the masses against those that are powerful and wealthy, how can we begin to distribute the many riches of our earth to those that are in need? How can we bring a better balance of wealth across nations so that everyone has access to basic needs?

Another theme outlined earlier is social injustices and equality which may be put under the spotlight. It is interesting to see, that just as Pluto begins to test the waters in Aquarius, the issue of violence against women has been named a national crisis in Australia. The rate of indigenous suicide among youth is another alarming crisis in need of addressing. These are only two examples reflecting the element of violence and trauma and also collective trauma which Pluto can symbolise, highlighting inequalities that need to be faced so change can be made and healing can occur.

As we experience the pain and overwhelming loss through death as these issues confront us with, can there be light at the end of the dark? The phoenix, it's origin found in Greek and Egyptian

² GUTTMAN, A. & JOHNSON, K. *Mythic Astrology*. Llewellyn Publications, St Paul, USA, 2004, p.174/175

³ GUTTMAN, A. & JOHNSON, K. *Mythic Astrology*. Llewellyn Publications, St Paul, USA, 2004, p.176

legends was a mythical bird that when ready to die, set itself on fire but then rose again out of the ashes to live once more thus becoming a symbol of regeneration and renewal much like Pluto. This myth can give hope and strength to humanity today. Pluto strips away our outer layers until it reveals our true essence, the core of our being. Although Pluto sparks images of going into the unconscious underworld, a journey on which to confront our fears, it can also reveal our strengths and positive traits and potentials which without peeling back the outer layers we cannot see within us. And so as Pluto now enters Aquarius for the next twenty years, we hope that as individuals and as a collective, we have the strength to face the challenges and unearth the core issues that we face that can allow for transformation and empowerment for humanity and a better and more just world for all.

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