

Being Authentic With Jupiter

Ari Moshe Wolfe

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Introduction

I have always wanted to write a book on Jupiter. As someone with five planets in Sagittarius, including Jupiter, as well as the IC and the south node, you can say I am a pretty Jupiterian person. I have observed over the years that when most people speak about Jupiter, they tend to focus on luck, opportunities, leaps of faith, exaggeration and optimism. While all those ideas are certainly relevant to Jupiter, they miss the real essence of this amazing planetary archetype.

When I think of Jupiter, the first words that come to mind are sincerity, honesty, natural, nature, naked, authentic. Where do we find the truth of reality? In reality, of course. How do we learn more about our true nature? By being true to our nature. How can we learn more from nature? By being natural.

The teachings of Jupiter are incredibly simple and to the point. There is no fluff, no highly conceptual ideas to wrap our minds around. Jupiter simply points to what is natural and real and where we each discover this in our own lives through our own personal and direct experience.

Direct Experience

Imagine you are in a forest and you come across a beautiful flowing river. If I ask you to learn something from this river, how would you go about finding this lesson? Surely the only way would be to give yourself to the river, to become available to its sounds, its movements, its nature, and to open your heart and mind to the consciousness of the river itself. In a state of

receptivity and sincerity to what is, free of preconceived beliefs and any agenda to manipulate what you find, you become available to insight.

Sitting down, breathing in the fresh air, feeling a sense of freedom and lack of inhibition, you notice that the river itself, without ever trying, embodies the energy of flow. You might notice that the river is similar to your own breath. You might notice that everything in life, every moment, is moving; that nothing stays stagnant. Seeing this gives you perspective on your own life and how you can nurture a healthy state. You notice that when water stops flowing, it stagnates and becomes unpleasant. So too, you realize that this is what happens to your mind when you are stuck in indecision. You realize that water is the fluidity of life itself. You realize that sweating, staying hydrated, urinating, being able to breath in and breathe out moisture are all a part of staying in flow with the current of nature, just like the river. You realize that life is far more poetic than mechanical and that the trick is to keep on breathing. You realize that to learn from the river you must become like the river...

Of course, anyone might have different insights, different flavors, different paths of realization, but the main message I wish to convey is that our insight and discovery of reality comes through our own personal direct realization. And this is regardless of our background. Another person who is very religious may sit by the river and have insights about their version of deity and the deeper meaning of the teachings in their holy book. Their realizations aren't more or less true than yours. Their realizations are authentic and direct and meet them exactly where they are ripe for further insight.

The truth is realized; it's not a logical thing and it always occurs through the faculties of what we are emotionally capable of apprehending about reality at the time. The truth comes in to expand our existing framework and show us more of how the oneness operates wherever and however we are receptive to experience it. This is what Jupiter is for each of us.

When we realize the truth, it comes from within. It's our own direct realization. What you might learn from a river is something that is entirely unique and true to you; it cannot be proven rationally or compared to anyone else's experience. If you have a meditation practice you may have realized on your own that through stillness, problems and pain arise and fall away on their own, that the river keeps on flowing if we allow it. You may start to understand that stillness is not the same thing as stagnation, that movement is not the same thing as frenetic activity.

Principle of the Tao

As we grow and cultivate our own direct insight into reality, we grow in wisdom, we become more aware of the way things are. Existing constructs rework themselves to accommodate to a more inclusive understanding. I often think of this as realizing the principles of the Tao. When I speak of the Tao, I am referring not to a religion, but to a term that has been used for thousands of years to refer to "the unnamable and undefinable WAY of reality." Nothing is not one with the Tao; there is no place where the Tao is not operative. Another way of saying this is: the principles of nature are as operative in a Kinkos office building in New York City as they are in the Amazon Rainforest.

In growing our wisdom, we see life with greater clarity and act in ways that harmonize with the way things are. Self-understanding and realization are at the core of the popular Jupiter ideas of luck and expansion.

Throughout this book I will expand on the many facets of Jupiter – but it will all truly derive from the basic premise that at the core, Jupiter corresponds to what is natural and authentic. The rest blossoms from there.

CHAPTER 1: JUPITER AND OTHER PLANETS

In this chapter, I explore Jupiter from the perspective of its relationship to a handful of other planets in the natal chart: Uranus, Mercury, Saturn, and Neptune. In so doing, I am setting us up to delve right into Jupiter on its own in the next chapters.

Through each planetary relationship we will gain another important perspective on the essence of Jupiter.

Jupiter (interpretation) Uranus (observation)

Jupiter (right brain) Mercury (left brain)

Jupiter (understanding of the truth) Neptune (the truth)

Jupiter (expansion) Saturn (boundaries)

Our Interpretation of Reality

Lets return to the river. You are sitting on the banks looking out at the water...

Wait! Before we call things by names and talk about your experience, there's something more fundamental to point out.

The river doesn't call itself a river and the bank doesn't call itself a bank. The experience of you being there is not the same as the ideas you have running through your mind while you are there. Before we get all poetic and talk about the things and the realizations that come with the things, there's first just the observation of reality as it is. No names, no meaning, no insight. Just what it is. I'm pointing to Uranus.

Uranus is pure observation: observation that doesn't define things as things nor ascribe names or meaning to life. Uranus represents the raw experience of seeing life as it actually is prior to identification. With Uranus our sensory faculties, including what we are picking up through our 360-degree auric field, is just the pure expression of divine creative intelligence and is without mental process.

Uranus, Jupiter, and Mercury

Uranian awareness is something we may consciously practice during meditation when we allow ourselves to become an observer without story. This is something that happens with children, and babies in particular, when observation is not filtered with interpretation and they pick up everything around them.

Jeffrey Wolf Green taught that Uranus corresponds to the higher mind. Uranus represents the projected intelligence of creation itself: the archetypal essence of creation as it exists as manifestations of pure intelligence prior to time. Then we have Jupiter and Mercury. Jupiter makes meaning of that which is observed. It cultivates insight and understanding as to the nature of reality. Mercury gives everything names so we can talk about it and share our ideas with one another.

Without Jupiter and Mercury, reality is what it is but there's no insight, understanding or classifications. This is why we can have a dream with seemingly non-sequitur symbols and we'll have to intuitively reflect on their meaning or maybe Google it to see what others have to say

about it. Often dream language is Uranian; it expresses the archetypes of reality but it's not necessarily operating through any personal understanding or existing mental syntaxes.

Astrology is Uranian as well: it just is. We can observe the sky and give names to the various aspects of the cosmos (Mercury, the names we use and how we mentally organize reality in our minds) and intuitively connect with their meaning and how the stars reflect the nature of consciousness (Jupiter, our understanding of reality). But without all that, it just is what it is. You have a natal chart whether or not you know how to interpret it. Number sequences may repeatedly appear in your life even if you don't know what they mean.

Right now, you are reading words that I have written. Observation is happening (Uranus) and your mind is identifying words, which become sentences, which then become whole thoughts (Mercury). Yet the fact that you have natural intuitive faculties means that you are able to grasp the deduced principals and concepts that my words are pointing to; you are able to derive meaning and insight (Jupiter). Consider that without a healthy Jupiter function, i.e., without a healthy intuition, we are left with finding understanding in life through logic. Imagine doing that by the river! Can you feel that Jupiter brings in a holistic, direct experience of reality... one that we know without necessarily being able to explain how we know, but we just know?

Jupiter is the Right Brain: Intuition. Mercury is the Left Brain: Logic

If we are operating entirely in a Jupiter way, we will interpret everything through our intuitive faculties. If we use our right brain to read a map, we will not be able to follow lines and street numbers (logical things that give organization to reality, Mercury). We will rather base our

sense of direction upon our own experience of things. In fact, we may not even read the map, we may just spontaneously decide to make a right turn here and a left turn there. We will intuit something, we will notice signs, have an inner-felt sense of life itself giving rise to a certain direction and movement. It's not something we can put on a map; it's a feeling that we can only access through our intuition. This can be a great way to travel if you have no fixed plans and no responsibilities to show up for!

This is the difference between left brain (Mercury) and right brain (Jupiter). We can also classify Mercury and Jupiter as inductive and deductive reasoning, respectively.

Jupiter and Neptune

Neptune is the truth. Truth with a capital "T." Neptune isn't about interpretation, insight, understanding. Neptune represents the oneness. To Neptune, reality is one and whole unto itself. Neptune represents Source: the source of creation, the source of all that is. Neptune IS the Tao itself. Neptune IS unconditional love and the unconditioned nature of reality. Where is the Tao, where is love? Well right here of course. Where is the source of creation? Right here. And we will find it wherever and whenever we are open to remember. Neptune invites a gesture of surrender, not something logical or something to interpret.

Contrast this with Jupiter. You are sitting by the river and from the point of view of Neptune there's the oneness. You are not separate from the river; everything is God. Sitting by the river, you become the river. You forget about "I", you forget about "river." There's just oneness. There's just this moment. Jupiter comes along and you write a philosophical book about the

experience describing all the lessons and realizations gleaned by merging with the river.

Everything you write in the Jupiter book is true, it's authentic. But of course it is not absolute.

Each realization can always go deeper. Every understanding has yet more dimensions to uncover.

The best way to illustrate the difference between Neptune and Jupiter is through the opening of the Tao Te Ching in the words of the great Lao Tzu:

"The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao. The name that can be named is not the eternal name." (Tao Te Ching by Stephen Mitchell, Harper Perennial, 1994). And YET! Lao Tzu did indeed write a book about that very thing that is thingless and that very name which is nameless. The philosophy itself is Jupiter, but what it points to is Neptune, which is beyond philosophy.

Jupiter and Saturn

Saturn corresponds to the boundaries of human consciousness. Everything has a limit. In fact, if it's a thing then it's limited. Only non-things are limitless. So according to each person's individual karmic reality in this present moment, your life is what it is. Your karmic reality is defined by the conditioning of your consciousness. Try as hard as you want to think and behave differently, you will have to practice new ways of thinking and behaving consistently over time to create new habits and patterns.

Jupiter and Saturn are often spoken about as a pair. Jupiter being expansion and Saturn being limitation. Jupiter is expansion because there's ALWAYS more. More to see, more to

understand, more to realize, more opportunities to discover who you are, what life is all about, how to unlock your personal potential in life. More more more.

And one of the downfalls of Jupiter? Excessiveness. Imagine a platter of food sampling flavors from all the best downtown restaurants in your neighborhood. Great! We got Thai, Indian, Ethiopian, Chinese, Japanese, Italian. Super exciting. You have the potential to taste all of it. While this potential is real, Saturn says you are limited in how much you can eat before hurting your body!

Jupiter can go excessive and then suddenly find itself bloated and stuck in a very unfortunate situation. Where Jupiter is expansion and opportunity, Saturn is wisdom and boundaries. If we are only focused on “more” (Jupiter) without grounding and learning the necessary discipline and restrictions to make our realizations livable (Saturn), then we will never really live our realizations.

We can understand the Jupiter-Saturn relationship in all areas of our lives: socially, spiritually, financially. Everything requires the Jupiter component of seeking greater meaning, following our intuition, opening to more. And absolutely everything has a limit. Knowing, learning, and respecting these limits are Saturn.

CHAPTER 2: STORIES OF AUTHENTICITY

Authenticity

I enjoy thinking about how to define the word, “authentic.” Certainly, anything can appear authentic, but true authenticity is irrefutable. Authenticity is such that when you are resonating with it you KNOW it to be so without a doubt.

When I first conceived of the idea to write a book on Jupiter by way of a weekly article series, my immediate reaction was to ask myself, “OK Ari, is this just another good idea? Are you actually going to do this or are you trying to fit yourself into a nice sounding idea?”

That self-skepticism arose because I know I have a tendency to convince myself of certain things that I want to be true about myself all the while not being entirely honest with myself about what is actually true and authentic for me. This is often rooted in the Jupiter experience of having a vision, a sense of potential (this occurs naturally and spontaneously) but then also adding all kinds of other things that might not resonate with the same natural and uncontrived truth. Further, the vision might be true, but what to do about it and how to work with it might not be immediately evident.

Jupiter corresponds to natural, spontaneous, unadorned. And thus, it follows that a shadow within the Jupiter archetype is to create complications by way of belief systems, self-convincing, and ideas of what is true all the while alienating oneself from what is actually true. The self-work that we do with Jupiter is one of simplification: allowing our lives to reflect what is natural and authentic for us.

My initial impulse to write on Jupiter was authentic, but interestingly, it quickly become an elaborate production. I wrote down the topic of all the various articles I would write and decided that I will write a series of in-depth articles on Jupiter through each of the twelve houses. All of that sounded really good and exciting to me in the moment, but this is a classic example of getting ahead of myself beyond what I can actually and successfully manage.

Remember Jupiter AND Saturn.

My life is pretty busy right now. Preparing for the birth of my daughter, there is a lot on my plate. I began to feel daunted about how much time I would have to put into researching chart examples and writing on Jupiter through the twelve houses. So I sat with it and I realized, “Oh, I don’t have to write a book that way!” When it comes to speaking of Jupiter through the twelve houses, perhaps there are other ways for me to do that (i.e. a live class series or a YouTube video series that can later be transcribed). Or maybe as I find more time opens in my life, I can give more attention to such in-depth writing—but perhaps not all right now.

This self-admittance freed me up to once again feel the open and expansive nature of my life as it actually is. The Jupiter archetype resonates with freedom and expansiveness: one wherein we palpably feel and experience that life is a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage to greater discovery, insight, and deeper understanding of ourselves and life.

There’s a Buddhist saying that just as the ocean tastes like salt, truth tastes like freedom. It’s undeniable and we never need to question if it is so. If “truth” must be upheld with arguments and rationale, or if one needs others to believe it, then it’s not actually true; it’s just an idea.

This can be a tricky area and yet the principle itself is incredibly simple. This is why I emphasize that Jupiter corresponds to nature and what is natural. Nature itself is completely authentic. No energy is ever wasted in trying to present a reality that sounds good but isn't actually true.

Upon this freeing up of personal energy, the following creative story started writing itself as I typed. Enjoy!

Susan and the Caterpillar Insight

One day Susan decided to go on a hike up a beautiful mountain trail. During her hike she slipped on a rock and had to catch her fall with her forearms so her head didn't hit the earth. As she was getting up, she saw a caterpillar ever so slowly crawling along the path. She palpably felt the consciousness of the caterpillar and was filled with a deep sense of compassion and joy. She had a spontaneous awakening about her own life: that everything happens in its own time, that life itself was guiding the process and she never need rush or believe she has to be somewhere other than where she is. Fears and concerns she was carrying just fell away and she felt a deep peace and trust in the flow of life.

After her hike she called up a friend to share about her experience. "And I fell and I saw the caterpillar and I just knew that everything was going to be ok! It was the most amazing experience of my life." While telling the story she realized how powerful this message is. She decided that she would write a book about going slow and trusting in life's timing. She would interview people who have given up lives of haste and effort. She would spend more time in nature to observe all the ways that change happens slowly. She would even research

caterpillars so that she could learn more about their life span and everything that caterpillars do before they spin a chrysalis.

She created a Facebook post and told everyone about her new book project. She set up a fundraiser so that she could have enough money to focus on her project. For the next few days, Susan was incredibly enthusiastic about her realization and new vision. Anytime one of her friends expressed any stress or discomfort with their lives, Susan would say something to the likes of, "But you don't have to be stressed! You can just relax and go slow. Life is carrying you!" She even saw a thread on Facebook where one person was complaining about their migraines. Susan didn't know this person very well but felt such a strong impulse to reach out to this person and let them know that "Nature heals if you just let it! So, if you stress about your migraines you will only feel more stressed! You see! It's that simple."

That person blocked her and in soon time, most of her friends stopped wanting to talk to her! She didn't notice it though. She was entirely on her own trip. Some money started to come in through the crowdfunding, but not very much. She actually started to think "OK who am I going to interview? Elderly people? Oh! Maybe children. Yes, children are great teachers for this kind of stuff." So, she began reaching out to anyone she could think of that would be good to interview.

She also went to the library and got every book she could find on caterpillars, so excited to return home and start reading.

One week later ...

She didn't really get through any of the books! Her attention didn't seem to hold for very long. She met with a couple people to interview them but found that they weren't really engaged, that didn't have much wisdom to share. In fact, she was mostly doing all the talking.

No more money was coming in and she was starting to get nervous about her project.

How can I write this book? What do I need to do to make it happen?

She decided to pull an oracle card from her favorite deck. She pulled the "haste" card which read "You are getting ahead of yourself. Slow down and return to nature to renew."

Ok right, I'll slow down. I'll go to nature and maybe I'll get another insight that will help me figure out how I can write this book.

So, Susan returned to the same trail but this time she was in her head the whole time! She didn't really enjoy the walk and didn't gain any insights.

Another week went by and the book idea kind of just fell by the wayside. She had a couple hundred dollars from the crowd funding but eventually decided that the best thing to do would be to return it to the contributors. It was very hard for her to get to that point. First, she really wanted to believe that eventually she would complete this project. But there was no longer any steam and she couldn't lie to herself anymore. Then, she attempted to think of lofty and convincing stories to explain why she wouldn't be completing this book. But that didn't feel

right either. She realized she should just return the money and be honest: I don't know if I will write the book and so it feels better and cleaner for me to return the money.

The moral of the story is that it's incredibly easy to stray from our present moment experience by way of ADDING more to it. The realization she had with the caterpillar was real. But notice how she immediately created an identity around it; she immediately moved towards doing something about it. It's very possible that she had an authentic vision and that there is something she is called to teach. But she lost connection to the actual journey of life unfolding in its natural way the moment she began living from an idea.

Ignoring the Elephant in The Room

The elephant in the room is whatever is obviously true. It doesn't need to be explained, it's self-evident. What isn't in the room needs to be explained and justified. It needs to be proven and reaffirmed over and over again. Why? Because it's not actually there so something has to be done to uphold it.

Susan wasn't intentionally lying; she just didn't realize that she wasn't being entirely honest with herself. In extreme cases we have the archetype of the hypocrite: espousing a believe all the while not adhering to it oneself, usually in the very moment of espousing it.

Another great example of this is found in so many spiritual traditions. Someone has an awakening experience, writes it down, and shares the teachings with others. At this point there is now a standard, an idea of what attainment looks like and how to get there. As a result, we find in so many traditions a dynamic of conformity wherein thousands of people have

convinced themselves to believe that the path they are on is the only way for them. I've encountered this within myself and within so many. I acknowledge how easy it is to forgo genuine self-sincerity and replace it with something that can very easily appear sincere even to our own selves.

Once I was meditating according to the instructions I received from one of my teachers. It was a very concentrated practice and my teacher told me to "Do this practice every day, three times a day at all costs." At all costs meant that nothing else is as important. So, I'm practicing, but during my practice I was missing out on the opportunity to eat Friday night Shabbat dinner with my parents and nephew whom I was visiting after not having been with them for over a year. I kept on finding an emotional draw to be with my family, but I also knew that I needed to sit for forty or so more minutes and stick with my commitment.

There was a strong back and forth between what I felt emotionally drawn towards and what I previously told myself I should do. The idea of getting up and going to dinner elicited a sense of guilt in me. And yet the idea of staying in my seat for the entire practice felt deeply lonely and sad.

Just allow the sadness and practice your mantra.

But it was so strong that I began to question whether this was right for me. There was an elephant in the room and I couldn't seem to shake this feeling that I was missing something obvious.

And then in a spontaneous moment, I had a thought:

I don't know what's right for me.

In that incredibly honest thought a space was created to not struggle with any idea of who I should be and what I should do. I actually admitted the truth to myself. The truth being that I sincerely didn't know. In that very moment of self-admittance some sort of internal energetic movement began to happen and it felt like I was being healed/re-aligned from the inside. I sat in that experience for a few minutes longer. In deep reverence, I completely I gave myself permission to do whatever I decided was right for me. I awoke to a standard of sincerity in which I realized, in a way I never quite saw before, no teacher could ever know what was right for me. Only I could know it.

So, what did I do? It doesn't matter actually. All I can say is what I did next, I did in a natural way, I felt sincere and undivided within myself. If that was in meditation or in dinner, does it make a difference?

The Healer

I want to give one final example (for now) of learning about the meaning of authenticity from my own life experience. I once sat with a healer/shaman-type man who does powerful channeling work in a group setting. I witnessed him interacting with people's guides, offering useful and keen insights. I felt that he really "got" people at their core. At some point I asked him, "What is your spiritual practice?" to which he answered:

“My spiritual practice is MY spiritual practice. Yours is yours.”

I am forever grateful for his response.

Freedom

I find that authenticity is actually saving grace. When we are true to ourselves, we are also true to the cosmos. This is so because all of creation is exactly what it is. We become aligned with the natural unfolding of life when we allow ourselves to be what we naturally are.

This is where the popular Jupiter notions of “luck” and “taking leaps of faith” come from. It’s not some happenstance idea of luck. It’s that when we act from a deeply authentic and sincere place, we are inherently in resonance with the cosmos. And life has its own flow. Remember what Susan taught? Life is leading the way; we don’t have to strive to make everything work out.

Freedom is rooted in authenticity, and when we are free to be true to ourselves in each moment, then we will not miss what life is revealing. Opportunities, connections, synchronicities all emerge because we are not somewhere other than here. Life is intelligent and wholistic. It resonates with our authenticity.

CHAPTER 3: DISHONESTY, SELF-CONVINCING, AND EXAGGERATION

Dishonesty

The truth never needs to be proven, explained, rationalized or justified. It always stands on its own and is always a matter of personal integrity. Speaking it, demonstrating it, living it is all that's needed.

Our truth is always found in the moment when we look at our own direct experience right now. Otherwise, without this in-the-moment looking, we will repeat old insights, something we read, something we once believed in, or something another person told us. It's possible to speak from the standpoint of trying to convince or prove to your own self that you know what you're talking about and to go about pretending that it is so.

Self-dishonesty isn't necessarily conscious deceit, it's literally just a matter of not being honest with oneself. "One more drink, I'll be fine." Is that a lie? Well no, because it seems true in the moment, but still isn't honest.

To truly admit "Oh I don't know if that's true" can be incredibly threatening to the ego structure. Moreover, there's usually some element of truth in everything and we don't usually want to feel like we are completely wrong. Most ego structures will dig the hole deeper and deeper, attempting to create a reality to validate the not-entirely-authentic story that's already been told. It's either that or to stop and look at oneself with honesty and admit that we might not have the full picture. This can be difficult because it's like driving a car at one hundred miles

per hour and then coming to a halt and admitting that maybe you're going the wrong way!
Hard to change such powerful momentum.

Changing course in this way is not an easy thing to do as we risk other people not believing us. If we never admit we were wrong then no one will ever know we were wrong, even though we are wrong! This is how simple mistakes can quickly become lies: when we are unwilling to change our perspective and instead double down on our position. Now we become identified with being right, being right becomes its own purpose—above and beyond the actual truth

Admitting the truth to ourselves is challenging because we risk coming to terms with our actual reality which means we will be so much more unadorned and simpler than we wanted to make ourselves out to be. But the truth is always freeing. When we meet it, we find compassion because we understand why we were not being honest. Usually we just had an idea in our head and identified that idea as truth. Usually that idea contains some element of insight or partial understanding. It's all very innocent when we get to the core of it.

When dishonesty with oneself becomes a flat out lie, the individual who is lying will not usually admit to themselves they are lying. For most lies, there is usually an identity that believes the lie; not necessarily as true per se, but as something that is true to do, something that somewhere in the psyche lands as justifiable and thus honest. Even if a person knows they are being dishonest, there's a quality of sincerity in their knowing of this and thus it won't always "feel" like a lie. It takes integrity to simply admit: "I lied. I did not tell the truth." To acknowledge this is deeply humbling.

Virgo and Sagittarius

The square between Virgo and Sagittarius reflects this reality (see chart below). Squares (planets 90 degrees from one another) are about tension that leads to creative integration. The presence of a square in a chart will generally reflect the tension of a crucial turning point: choices or decisions that need to be made in order to resolve, open up, and soften an otherwise tense and challenging dynamic.

Virgo is about self-accuracy and the intent within consciousness to refine, correct and improve upon the details of one's life. The tension between Virgo and Sagittarius can manifest as having grand visions and ideals for what is possible, and creating crisis by way of not being honest about one's abilities, capabilities, actual level of understanding/insight at the time.

John sat in a medicine ceremony with a healer from the Amazon forest. During the ceremony he had a vision of himself in the jungle facilitating a healing ceremony for other people. After the ceremony he told himself, "I'm going to train and become a medicine healer!" And so, he found some medicine and began practicing facilitating with a few close friends.

John was not only a novice; he really had no clue what he was doing. He chanted words that didn't quite feel real to him. He did it anyway, ignoring the elephant in the room. He administered medicine he didn't really understand. He had an intuitive sense of connection, an inner knowing of there being a path here, but he was not present to his actual capacities. He was not being honest with himself and the situation. At some point, crisis ensued. While his friends were screaming afraid they were going to die, John realized that he had gone WAY

ahead of himself. So now the Virgo function kicks in big time and he realizes that he needs to develop himself and not rush into things like this. Very, very humbling.

The effect of this practice ceremony made John deeply aware of the extent of his self-dishonesty and how easy it was for him to convince himself of a path that seemed very viable in the moment. As a result, he didn't want to do anything that felt remotely like it was copying another culture. He didn't want to sing any songs that he didn't understand. He didn't even want to think about the idea of one day becoming a healer. He felt like a fraud and was embarrassed. Fraud, charlatan, and imposter syndrome are all associated with Jupiter.

Virgo relative to Sagittarius says make sure you are moving forward with integrity and leaving no stone unturned. Be honest. Honest with yourself, honest with others. When we are dishonest with ourselves, we create messy situations in our lives and in that of others. And Virgo corresponds to messy situations and the lessons we learn from them as we show up to clean them up.

The Virgo-Sagittarius square can represent another challenge: permeating self-doubt. This is what eventually ended up happening to John. Sagittarius asks us to move on our intuition—to know without knowing how we know. If we have a past of getting ahead of ourselves and have made mistakes by shooting our arrow and totally missing the mark, then there can be a wounding in one's intuitive faculties. This can result in the healer not trusting their intuition and holding back from doing the work they are here to do. The spiritual aspirant not trusting where the path is actually calling them. The counselor not speaking the truth they feel called to share.

The teacher not trusting their own insights. The Virgo-Sagittarius square can thus reflect the psychology of the seeker who never finds. We will discuss this psychology further in the next chapter.

Exaggeration

When we drop already knowing and come back to our direct experience, in that moment we return to our path. Our soul path is self-evident; it reveals itself to us in a natural and direct way. No contrived effort is necessary to create something different or make ourselves other than what we are. Few people really experience this simplicity because the tendency, in more industrialized cultures in particular, is to walk around with a conception already in mind; thus, repeating the same self-convictions over and over again. Our common language even reflects such an attitude. In the West it is very common to exaggerate and not tell the truth as if it's normal and expected:

I had the best insight ever! I was sitting by the river for like 5 hours and I realized that everything is always flowing! This is the most powerful realization I have ever had in my life. It was so big.

What's actually true here? Well, you had an insight; it was profound for you. But did you actually sit there for 5 hours? Wasn't it more like thirty minutes? Telling a story about how big something was is certainly not the same thing as the experience of whatever that big thing was. And was it actually "big?" Is that how it actually felt or is that word trying to compensate (Jupiter key word) for something else that's far more intimate and authentic that you don't believe to be sufficient or haven't given yourself the space to connect with?

It's easy to replace the very real value of an experience with details that present the appearance of it being a big deal. The truth is our experiences are always valid and we don't need to make things up or exaggerate details in order to prove that it was so. Exaggeration can come in many forms down to how you present how much money you earn, not being entirely honest about the details of a story, exaggerating your emotional state to reflect a reality that isn't quite accurate to what's going on, etc.

"I am literally starving." No, you probably aren't literally starving. But you are hungry.

"I'm literally dying of the heat." No, you are metaphorically dying. That's 100% the incorrect use of the word "literal."

"I was waiting forever." No, you were probably only waiting for an extra ten or fifteen minutes.

Of course, if prompted, most people would not double down and assert, "No, I am literally dying right now!" Most people would brush it off and admit, "Yeah, but it's just a way of talking." But this way of talking, when it becomes so common place, just becomes a habit of not being honest. What is it like to only speak the truth? I find that it's actually not as easy as it sounds.

Gemini and Sagittarius

This dynamic is well reflected in the opposition between Sagittarius and Gemini. Oppositions (planets opposite one another) are the greatest tension in the natal chart. Oppositions represent energies that will often manifest as a perceived duality, a tension within

consciousness between perceived opposites. The invitation with any kind of oppositional dynamic is to realize the opposition as a singular axis: not two points in contradiction, but an entire domain of integrated understanding. Thus, finding what is inherently true that does not exist in opposites.

Gemini is facts. Words have specific meanings and point to the “things” of creation. While all these words we use are made up and vary from culture to culture, there is logic behind language and communication. How we talk to one another is meant to convey whole thoughts that allow for an exchange of ideas between humans.

“I was waiting forever” factually means something different than “I was waiting for fifteen minutes.” In the exaggeration of Sagittarius, actual data is usually misconstrued. The tension between Gemini and Sagittarius can reflect the dishonesty of using whatever words will convey the idea that wants to be expressed to the disregard of the accuracy and actual meaning of the words.

In extreme cases this can be used as a way to consciously lie and present a reality to convince others of what you want them to believe. We see this with politicians as much as with salespeople and religious leaders.

I used to exaggerate a lot. I remember one moment as a young man when I realized that I was not telling the truth. It was a huge blow to my ego because I thought of myself as an honest person but realized that I was a compulsive exaggerator. Unraveling this I began to realize that I exaggerated because I didn’t think the truth would be enough, that it would be interesting or

impressive enough, so I stepped outside of my own authentic knowing to *add* more to it. I still fall into these patterns today, but I can identify in my body how different it feels to speak honestly versus to speak with even a little exaggeration. When I'm not truthful with the present moment it leaves a lingering sense of disconnect. There's no real intimacy and it broods a feeling of aloneness.

Another way to characterize the opposition between Sagittarius and Gemini is the ways in which words and gestures can be made. Words and gestures are all Gemini, but words and gestures are not always authentic. For example, we are often asked "How are you?" The answer is usually not completely authentic. "I'm OK." Culturally, such an answer might be appropriate in various situations. This is a Gemini social skill, knowing how and when to adapt to the environment. But culturally, how much space is there for the actual truth to be conveyed?

You can see this energy of authenticity in kids who have not been conditioned to try to be acceptable and fit in. They will be honest. It doesn't mean they will flat out say what's on their mind. But if they are shy, they will be true to their shyness. If they are excited and want to tell you everything, they will surely do so. Authenticity becomes compromised when the mind associates certain gestures, stripped of meaning of authentic value, as what is needed in order to be socially accepted and fit in.

The very opposite can be true. Imagine traveling to a foreign country and absolutely lacking in tact (Gemini = social awareness) and saying all the wrong things and dressing in the wrong way.

Going to a restaurant in Japan and asking for Pizza. Asking the tea server in China if they can put sugar in your tea. Here, the social adaptability skills (Gemini) are completely lacking to the overemphasis of one's narrow experience of reality that excludes other people's subjective cultural experience. Remaining true to oneself while knowing how to adapt to circumstance, both with nothing to prove and nothing to pretend, is the key of integrating Gemini and Sagittarius energies.

The Snarky Comment

I recall once in the third grade I made a very off-kilter comment to a teacher who said something to me in the hallway. I honestly don't remember what I said. All I remember was I didn't mean it. I only said it because I saw something on a television show in which someone made some kind of sarcastic comment and the audience laughed. Somehow that left an impression on me and I felt an attraction to that. I feel it was the idea of being funny, an attraction to a certain kind of sarcastic humor. So in a spontaneous moment, free of any personal issue with that teacher or agenda to tell them anything meaningful, I said something that came across as dismissive, disgruntled, and honestly the best word I can think of is snarky. I don't even think it was a comment about them or to them, it was something I said in response to being spoken to and I think she might have actually just been saying hello to me.

All I recall was she was very offended and it suddenly become a big deal. The principal got involved and had me write a letter of apology and definitely scolded me with a good talking to. I don't remember any of what they told me other than I remember thinking, "This is not at all relevant to me. I actually didn't mean whatever I said." I remember thinking that the best

course would be to write an apology letter and just go with it because no one would really understand where I was coming from; why I said what I said. So, I wrote the letter and apologized and did it all in a way that looked very sincere all the while feeling like the actual truth was totally inaccessible and that there was no way I could ever explain myself to them. I allowed the teacher and the principal to believe that I was hearing their message and learning a lesson about, was it respect? I don't remember. I played the part and moved on.

This was for me both disappointing and illuminating. As someone who cherished comedy and stand-up comedians (I used to read autobiographies of stand-up comedians), I thought that this is what being funny looked like. But apparently, I was completely out of touch (Jupiter) with the current cultural reality around me (Sagittarius relative to Gemini. See below for more on that). After that experience I became more tactful and discerning, ultimately developing a greater understanding as to what humor *actually is*. At the same time, however, that experience further solidified in my mind that being myself is inaccessible to people, that I can't really be understood for what I really mean.

To reflect a bit more on what I was attempting to do when trying to be funny. A Jupiter tendency is to try to replicate an experience that is not right now. This could be a previous insight or something someone else did or said that worked for them. So, in my example, I was trying to be a funny person. This is different than being a funny person. The same thing can happen with a practitioner of meditation; following the same practice they were taught by their spiritual teacher thirty years ago because at some point they told themselves, "This is the path I

need to walk to wake up. This is what my teacher told me.” But is that true? What is authentic can’t be forced or replaced with a nice-sounding idea.

If I were to enter the scene of young Ari, I would have sat the sweet boy down and asked him why he said what he said, what he was thinking? I would have endeavored to understand where he was coming from according to his experience and then I would have given him a little treat to chew on. Maybe this, “Ari, what do you think makes something funny? Think about it for a while and let me know. I’m curious what you’ll come up with.”

Honesty VS Bluntness

Simply, honesty is a present moment thing. It’s not about the words you speak; it’s about the energy and authenticity of what is being brought forth. A hug can be authentic or it can be a lie. If it’s a lie, it doesn’t mean it’s bad or deceitful or manipulative. It can just mean it’s not telling the truth it’s trying to express.

A common Jupiter mistake is confusing honesty with bluntness. To be blunt is to speak your mind and be seemingly honest, but it’s not necessarily honest. For example, if in a state of indignation, I tell you, “I think your shoes are ugly,” we can argue that I am being honest. I owned it as my own perspective, i.e. I didn’t say your shoes are objectively ugly. So, what’s dishonest about my statement? Let’s take the words out and keep the energy, but with no actual language. What are we left with? An energy of indignation. Give it some color, some movement, give it an interpretive dance. It will look nothing like the seemingly straight forward,

“I think your shoes are ugly.” The energy of the moment is what’s being communicated, not the apparently “honest” words that are being expressed.

To be honest means to be authentic with one’s experience. Nature is always a good example of this. When the leaves are falling from a tree, they will gently float down to the earth. When the rain falls, it will make a little droplet sound when it drops into a puddle. Nature’s expression is true to its experience. For us humans, however, it’s so easy to contort our lives so that we try to make something true all the while being dishonest about what is actually true.

Truth is Safe

Often times we are afraid that if we really get honest with ourselves, that if we are authentic enough to find our truth where we are, that we will be misunderstood, that people will not get us. If no one understands you, is your own truth still valid?

I am finding that a core belief many people have is simply that the truth isn’t good enough. It won’t be impressive. It won’t make any changes. It won’t be believed. It falls short of where we were hoping to be. And yet, the truth always takes us back to that precious zero point where life begins.

The Mutable Cross

Figure 1 shows the chart of the mutable cross. Jupiter is the ruler of Sagittarius and so, whenever I speak about Jupiter, I am also referring to the energy of Sagittarius. Understanding the relationship Sagittarius has with the rest of the zodiac is another way to gain insight and perspective on the Jupiter archetype. I have discussed the relationship between Sagittarius and

Virgo as well as Sagittarius and Gemini. Later, when I focus on Jupiter as a spiritual path, I'll address the relationship between Pisces and Sagittarius and the archetypes of the seeker and the teacher.

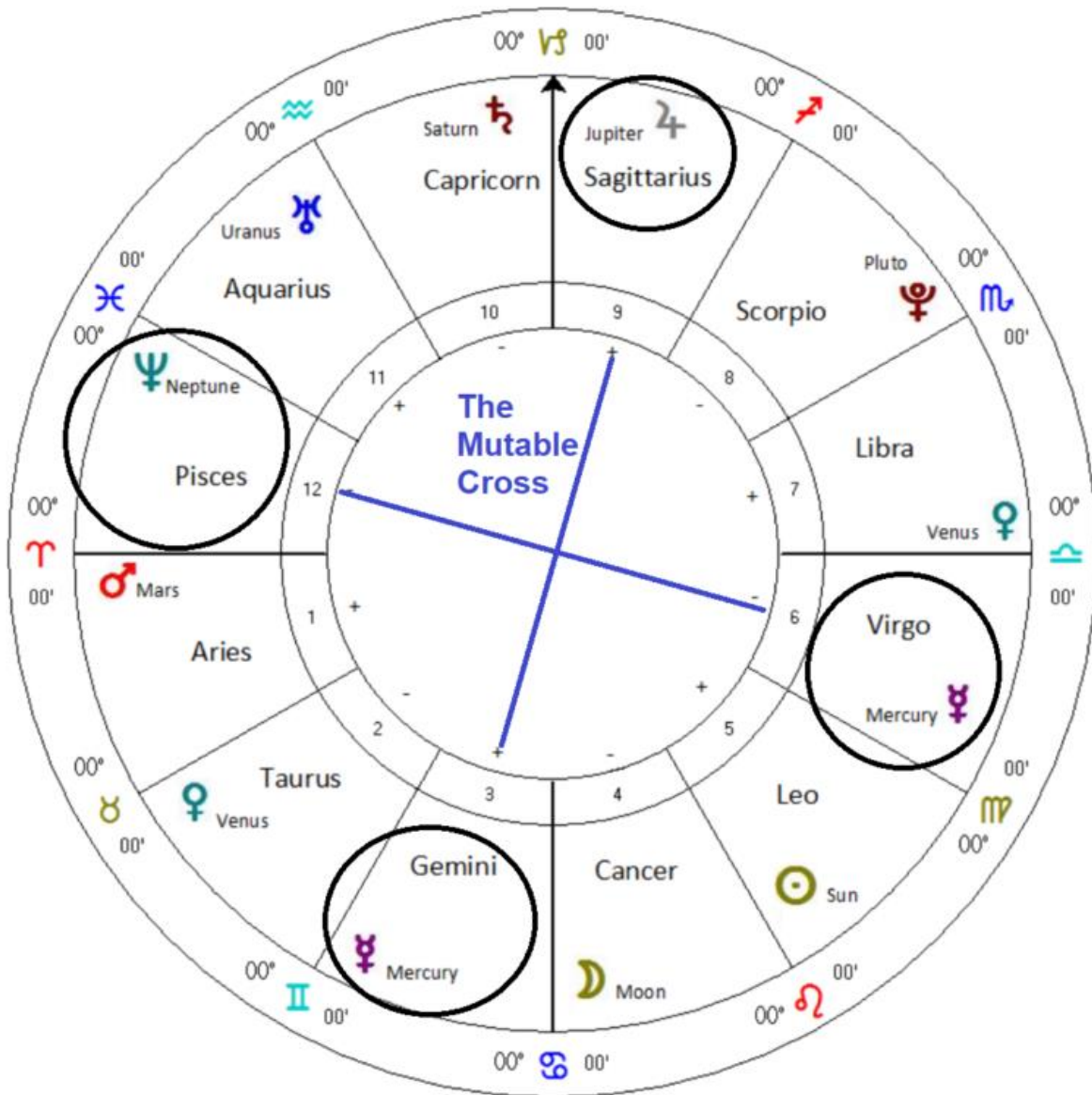


Figure 1. The Mutable Cross

The four mutable signs are Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces. These four signs come at the end of each of the four quadrants and can be thought of as the more existential signs of the zodiac. They are culminative, diffusive, open, non-specific. Gemini is mutable air, which symbolizes the adoptability and infinite pathways of the mind to think about, identify and communicate anything in any number of ways. Virgo is mutable earth, which speaks to the adoptability and utility of the mind to adjust, make corrections and engage with physical reality to improve upon all kinds of conditions in any kind of context. Sagittarius is mutable fire. Fire being action and also a consuming energy, Sagittarius represents the availability for insight and realization that can be accessed in any environment. Lastly, Pisces is mutable water and represents the water in all things: the inherent unity of life with itself and the truth of spirit and oneness beyond any condition.

CHAPTER 4: SEEKING, FINDING, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS

Seeking and Finding

Seeking is not the same as finding. You can't do both at the same time. On the spiritual path, we are all led to a place where no answer, no context, no understanding and no external teaching can guide us to where we ourselves alone must venture.

And venture is needed. There's the teaching, "All you need is inside of you." This is true. There's also the teaching, "You must follow your path, wherever that takes you." This is also true. It's neither about inside nor outside. It's about walking the path—and the very fact of being here on this Earth means that there is a very wide template for realization, uniquely designed for each individual soul.

Jupiter represents the archetype of the seeker, the spiritual aspirant, the pilgrim. We all carry those energies inside of us. All those word vibrations relate to someone who is on a journey towards something more. Impelled by an intuitive knowing and faith in one's personal potential or destiny, a soul sets out on a journey. This journey takes them into unknown lands, unfamiliar encounters, relationships, meetings with teachers, saints, liars, and all the rest.

I once saw an excellent movie, *The Holy Mountain* (Alejandro Jodorowsky, 1973). As I recall, it featured a group of people who were all called upon to climb to the top of a mountain. At some point, they got to the foot of the mountain and all kinds of interesting things were going on.

People selling merchandise, food, entertainment, enticing activities for the senses. There was even a man who was selling some kind of candy. He said something like, “You don’t need to climb the mountain! Eat this candy and you’ll find the top of the mountain right here!” It was tempting but the seekers continued on and moved away from all the distractions. As they moved on, the grasp of the world seemed to loosen and they felt less regret for what they might have missed out on.

Opportunism, second guessing, seeking more than what is intuitively self-evident, and not wanting to miss out on an opportunity, are all ways that we distract ourselves from our direct path. Our direct path is not something that can be mapped out; it is guided 100% by the energy of self-honesty and authenticity in what we find is true for our own selves.

Authenticity is the driving force for the seeker. Without it, it’s easy to incorporate all kinds of beliefs and ideas about what one can possibly do, where one can possibly go. Life can offer itself as an endless array of distractions and thus never-ending seeking.

Jupiter in the 3rd house: *Maybe I’ll find more insight or answers if I read this book and that book, look up this information, have a conversation with this person.* One can become so overloaded that the mind can become confused with too many perspectives and ideas, some of which make sense and connect; some of which don’t.

Jupiter in the 5th: *Maybe I’ll be adored and recognized if I put on this performance, make myself seen in this or that way, embrace all kinds of opportunities for largeness and self-expression.* This can result in always putting on a show, looking for attention anywhere it can be

found to the point of living a lie. Getting stuck in the role of performer, pretending to be someone they are not; all because that's where the attention is.

Jupiter in the 7th: *Maybe I'll interact with this person and that person because they have something to tell me or I have something to tell them.* This can be playing out a reality of seeking approval and acceptance through other people; a need to be trusted by everyone. And yet, a shallowness exists where the quality of true authentic relating, authentic truth-telling, is lost because the soul is always trying to accommodate.

Jupiter in the 12th. *I ate the candy at the foot of the mountain and had an experience of God. Now I am crafting an illusory reality around candy as a path to self-realization.* The issue here is that consciousness becomes dependent on something external as a way inward. Candy becomes its own God and one's direct connection with source is clouded via dependency on the heightened experience of unity that the candy seems to provide.

Jupiter can feel like a flash in the pan: something that feels like an opportunity for more but is just an opportunity to get away from oneself. Remember that with Jupiter we have the association of the convincing salesperson who will sell you something completely useless and make a good buck out of it. We also have the consumer who is eager to buy the next (fill in the blank: spiritual practice, teacher, product, diet, money-making scheme, way to attract others, etc.....).

Ok I'm Done

One common Jupiter archetype is the jolly Santa-Clause-like, heavy weight, old person. Lots of

stories to tell, loves to tell them, and will talk on and on and on. They have a certain charm to them. But with this particular archetype, there's very often a sort of settling: a "I'm done with the journey" quality. Let's meet one of these people.

This is George. As a youth George traveled to India before it was cool and spent a lot of time in an Ashram. He had some powerful awakening experiences. But as time passed, he needed to get back into the world and make money. Eventually he met a woman and had a child. The Saturn pressures of life became very strong and he started to settle in and focus.

George never stopped telling the stories of his amazing spiritual experiences though. Some people even saw him as a teacher, as a spiritual guide, for indeed he had a lot of wisdom and insight. But there was something missing for this soul. You see, George gave up on the path and, like everyone else in the world who wants to remain where they are, settled on his beliefs.

George, give us some of your most popular one-liners, will you?

"Sure. I like to tell people that you don't need to go to India or take this or that class. It's all a waste of time, you have all you need inside of you. You also don't need to meditate every day, just be natural. Stop seeking."

Of course, this has much truth in it! No one "needs" to go anywhere or do anything to find oneself. And yet, we all do go places and do practice all kinds of things. The personal journey is a part of it and we can't philosophize ourselves away from the path we are here to walk. Jupiter doesn't say, "You must do this practice" or "You don't need to do this practice." It doesn't

relate to those dualities. Jupiter says, “Walk your path. Walk it all the way. Follow it and see where it leads you and then see what’s next.”

Seemingly spiritually sound arguments can be made for why or why not anything. But we can always feel if it’s authentic. If it is carried by a quality of sincerity that holds a lot of open space, then it will feel authentic. Truth, when spoken, is an open door. It doesn’t exclude certain ideas or paths as wrong and it doesn’t have fixed ideas that it will impose upon others, it simply represents itself. What is true always stands on its own. Any kind of “know-it-all-ness” or “yeah-I’ve-been-there-ness” is actually a cover up for “I’m-afraid-to-admit-that-I-don’t-have-it-all-figured-out” or “I’m-not-here-now-and-so-I-am-compensating-by-stressing-that-once-upon-a-time-I’ve-been-there”.

Always Being Always Becoming

Let’s contrast this fictional George with one of my spiritual teachers who actually exists.

Adyashanti had a series of awakening experiences several decades ago. He has been teaching and holding retreats throughout the world since then. One beautiful thing I’ve noticed about Adyashanti is that I don’t feel he’s “done,” and I don’t get the sense from him that he feels that way either. While I feel in his presence a deep stillness and knowing of wholeness, he himself recognizes that he’s still discovering.

The abiding realization of unity, of everything being “the one” is Neptune/Pisces. That’s the truth that is unchanging and always now. The ongoing realization of how this truth manifests is

Jupiter/Sagittarius. The discovery never ends. Reality is infinite; there is no end to the realizations of it. These two states can co-exist: Unity consciousness AND ongoing discovery.

There's a beautiful teaching I've heard from Adyashanti which simply states, "Always being, always becoming" (which I'm sure has been said by other people before him). To me this beautifully expresses the relationship between the ever-present truth of what we are, and the ongoing expansion of comprehension as to the nature of phenomenal reality.

Pisces and Sagittarius

The square between Pisces and Sagittarius speaks to this. In Pisces we give something ultimate meaning. It is God. Whatever we surrender to is where God is. It can be a relationship, a teacher, a dependency, a belief we have about our lives. All of it can produce deep states of euphoria, hope, wellness, miracles. And yet it can all be just a show of maya, a temporary blip on the screen of existence. With Pisces we are left with nothing under our feet, no ground to stand on, nothing to hold onto that won't someday slip through our fingers like sand.

In Sagittarius we are setting out to find the truth, expand our understanding, and cultivate our own direct experience. We are learning from nature and from being natural. The tension of this square points to how easy it is for a soul to get wrapped up in believing all kinds of things which unintentionally stop the path somewhere near the foot of the mountain. We can become distracted or stuck in a seemingly endless swirl of existence for an undefinable period of time until the grace of disillusionment wakes us up out of our trance. We can convince ourselves

(Sagittarius) that anything is real, and in so doing become utterly disillusioned when the world construct we surrendered to (Pisces) reveals itself as an illusion (Pisces).

A great example of this is pulling a tarot card or having a dream that, upon our interpretation (and interpretation will always be subjective), we conclude certain things (about that person, the upcoming event, our life, that career, etc.) to be true. Based upon our interpretation, which results from what we are capable of understanding and integrating at the time, we form beliefs about what the dream or the card is telling us. This interpretation/belief (Sagittarius) is the basis for ascribing faith and ultimate meaning into our beliefs (Pisces). We make our belief a point of surrender and trust. In our well put together world view it seems like everything is ok. It is, until we realize that what we thought was true was in fact just a measure of our own self-convincing.

Does this mean we interpreted the card or the dream wrong? Was this some kind of psychic interference? Is the card deck bad? Do we need to sleep with symbols and crystals under our pillow to not be misled in our dreamtime? The answer is we will only know what we know and if we don't know then we are best to admit that. This can be utterly confusing when it really seems like we are being spiritually guided in one direction and then something entirely different happens.

Pisces is beyond comprehension; it's not something to figure out and understand. Mistakes are made when we try to fit everything into a cosmology or belief system that explains it all away. This becomes a distraction and so often a source of great suffering. Of course, no distraction is

useless nor is it truly a distraction in an ultimate sense when it comes to the invaluable wisdom and self-knowledge we might ultimately glean from it.

Lastly, and most importantly, the essence of Pisces is Love. One way we can describe the relationship between Sagittarius and Pisces is the ever-unfolding realization of how love (Pisces) manifests in the phenomenal world (Sagittarius).

The Teacher

A Yogi Tea bag (ascribed to Yogi Bajan) once read, “If you want to learn something, read about it. If you want to understand something, write about it. If you want to master something, teach it.” Teaching is one of the best ways that we each have a direct experience of the truth. In teaching, as long as we are being honest, we taste the truth with our every word and gesture. Teaching provides a moment-to-moment opportunity to connect in with our own direct experience.

And so, it is one common expression in the Jupiter archetype to at some point come into the situation of being a teacher. Being a teacher means you get to be a guide who has simply had their own fair share of realizations and discoveries along the way, who gets to help others on their own unique path. The best teacher is one that will point people back to themselves and lead by example and the integrity of their own personal experience, not necessarily someone that will have cookie cutter answers for everyone. This is the danger of teaching within the Jupiter archetype: falling upon previously established answers and placing them on the present moment without regard for if it feels authentic or not.

I like to think of Jupiter as a continual manifestation of student-teacher type relationships. Since there is ALWAYS more to learn, there will always be a teacher and there will always be a student. These relationships don't have to be defined roles by any means, but they are a natural phenomenon that occurs for all of us. As we each awaken to a more whole understanding, we resonate with other people who in some way share a resonance with our own path. Through relationship we get to share and offer pointers along the way which in turn further crystalize and expand upon our realization.

The Student

While teachers come with the journey, students grow by learning how to discern what feels true and what doesn't (Sagittarius relative to Virgo and Pisces: not blindly believing anyone and paying attention to obvious details that the intuition should pick up on). This can be tricky because there are always other souls out there who have a quality of insight beyond our own, and yet their path will never ever be ours. By discerning what feels true for oneself, one stays engaged in their own sovereignty and avoids the trap of giving up one's power to someone who already has the answers. The relationship between teacher and student is very sacred in that way. It's by no means unidirectional. The teacher must check themselves and cultivate even greater sincerity and honesty with themselves. And the student needs to go inside to chew on the teachings, internalize it and check in with their own intuitive knowing. If a teaching is true, it will elicit a spontaneous feeling of freedom about life. If a practice is right, it need not be backed up by philosophy for why it should be practiced. This is a great stretch for the seeker/student. In a way, they must learn to become their own teacher and reference their own inner knowing in order to really benefit from the relationship with their teacher.

Lastly, student-teacher relationships are always a matter of soul resonance. They come together naturally, guided by fate and synchronicity. It can be a college professor, a guru you had a fated meeting with on the streets, a discarnate master who visits you in your dreams, or the I-Ching. Whether we are in the role of the student or teacher in any particular relationship, we each know who and what we are drawn to. We are impelled to follow for as long as it feels relevant to do so.

CHAPTER 5: A WORD GAME THROUGH THE 12 HOUSES

At this point I've covered most of the core themes that relate to Jupiter and so I'd like to have some fun putting Jupiter in the natal chart.

I have Sagittarius occupying my 3rd house. What this means is that I naturally find intuitive ways to articulate and communicate my understanding. And so, here's a fun game!

Basically, I am choosing one Jupiter key word and am exploring a handful of ways to apply that word to each house position. I will use the word "Authentic" (surprise). Enjoy!

1st House

- Authentic action: Our actions originate from an honest and sincere place, thus not contrived or forced.
- Acting authentically: Our instincts and impulses are inspired by a sense of personal truthfulness.
- Authenticity is action: Because it's always doing exactly what it does.
- Action is authentic: A wild animal that goes out to hunt its prey.

2nd House

- Authentic senses: Our senses are honest and we do not overcomplicate them with too much stimulation beyond what can be received.
- Sensing authentically: Tasting what we taste, feeling what we feel, embodying pleasure simple as it is. This equals an abundance of sensation because there is uncomplicated openness to the moment.
- Authenticity is sensual: In authenticity the mind is in this moment, not grasping for more, true to one's immediate sensual experience. Every nuance is sensational.
- Sensuality is authentic: A cat purring on a soft couch.

3rd House

- Authentic communication: Just like you are forming logical conclusions by way of the words and sentences and whole thoughts you are reading.
- Communicating authentically: Words that express the actual reality you are seeking to represent.
- Authenticity is communication: It expresses exactly what is and doesn't send any mixed messages or try to appear more or less than what it is.
- Communication is authentic: Birds calling to each other in the morning.

4th House

- Authentic nourishment: Like a hug that is undeniably good for you.
- Nourishing authentically: Emotional sincerity that feeds and provides for what the most tender and delicate within us are needing.
- Authenticity is nourishment: The truth is like a warm blanket that says everything is ok.
- Nourishment is authentic: A wolf bringing home its kill to its den.

5th House

- Authentic expression: Unplanned and unrehearsed expression of your own creative genius.
- Expressing authentically: With nothing added, share your light as you are. You have your own message and gift to shine.
- Authenticity is expression: It radiates like the Sun and inspires others as to the freedom of being oneself.
- Expression is authentic: A lion roaring with pride.

6th House

- Authentic grooming: Taking care of what needs to be taken care of and then moving on.

- Grooming authentically: Not seeking perfection but giving attention to the details and enjoying the wellness that your care and attention provides.
- Authenticity is grooming: Simplifies life so that everything can function in its optimal way. Without adornment, it points out what needs attention.
- Grooming is authentic: A cat thoroughly licking itself clean until it feels complete.

7th House

- Authentic relating: Sincerity and honesty in relationship.
- Relating authentically: Needs are expressed, truth is spoken with no hidden agenda.
- Authenticity is relationship: An honest meeting with what is now.
- Relationship is authentic: Two dogs sniffing each other's butts.

8th House

- Authentic sex: honest meeting of two souls, soul revealing, free of ulterior motive.
- Sexing authentically: Penetratingly honest, vulnerable, open, truthful with oneself, true to one's desire. Stripping away all that is untrue.
- Authenticity is sex: Naked, honest, vulnerable, and revealing.
- Sex is authentic: Two cats getting it on in your neighbor's backyard.

9th House

- Authentic intuition: Something that occurs to you from within.
- Intuiting authentically: That there's more and you are impelled to follow. This is not something you are making up.
- Authenticity is intuitive: It's self-evident and we know it's true without knowing how we know other than we know that it's irrefutably so.
- Intuition is authentic: Your animal friend knows when you are leaving the house for three days even before you leave. You can say, "I'll be back soon!" as much as you want, but your dog or cat knows you are leaving and will express that authentically.

10th House

- Authentic success: Its right for you, only you can measure this standard.
- Succeeding authentically: Building a life of sincerity and ethics based on your own intuitive principles and ethics. You know what it means to be successful and it has everything to do with how you are going about the path.
- Authenticity is success. Instantly so, all the cards are on the table, consequences and results are immediate. Only growth can blossom from authenticity, even if it's total failure.
- Success is authentic: The spider sits in the middle of the web it spun.

11th House

- Authentic liberation: Not trying to fit in or be understood but just being yourself and enjoying the company of other humans.
- Liberating authentically: From what you realize is simply not you. The emptiness of discovering what you are like with no prior belief about what that should be. Freedom to be honest.
- Authenticity is liberation: As the ocean tastes like salt, the truth tastes like freedom.
- Liberation is authentic: A forest ecosystem full of thousands of species co-living simply as they are.

12th House

- Authentic spirituality: Free of blind beliefs and lofty ideals, seeking what is true right now.
- Spiritualizing authentically: Applying the principal of oneness to any moment or place that you wish. Awakening to the timelessness of spirit.
- Authenticity is spiritual: You can't fake your way to enlightenment.
- Spirituality is authentic: Anything, anywhere, anytime.

Chapter 6: OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM PART 1

I have introduced the themes of optimism and pessimism. Now I would like to expand on each of these archetypes.

We don't often think of Jupiter as being associated with pessimism but in fact it is so! Really, Jupiter is just a lot of anything. It reflects where consciousness can exacerbate any condition, emotion, belief, perception and make things seem a lot bigger than they are.

Pessimism points to a specific cosmology wherein one's fears are essentially leading the show and dictating what is and what will be. This amounts to gross exaggeration and negativity.

We've all met such people and have been them ourselves at times. They first and foremost have the answers for everything. Secondly, the answers come with a certain grim defeat. Penetrating their certainty will be difficult because they have already decided and are fundamentally resistant to seeing differently. Third, since we are looking at Jupiter here, there's a sort of evangelical quality to their pessimism. It's not just a way they feel, it's their outlook on life and there's usually an emotional need to convince and convert others to their grim outlook.

What's the cause of this pessimism? This should not be confused with Saturn pessimism (which is just depressed and dark because life is hard and it sucks and the weight of the world is on my shoulders...).

Pessimism with Jupiter is very closely associated with alienation. In fact, I would suggest that alienation is the root cause of Jupiter-type pessimism. Jupiter, which at the core is about

authenticity and truthfulness, is also where we might at some point come to believe that authenticity and truthfulness is unsafe. That we *cannot* be our authentic self. That the truth will be misunderstood. That our own nature, who we are, simply can't be integrated in our family, relationship, culture, nation, school, job etc. Such an inner orientation can only breed a psychology of pessimism.

The Ashkenazi Jew who was an outsider among Sephardic Jews, and both types of Jews feeling different to their bones from the gentiles. Wherever we look we can trace a cultural history of racial persecution, pogroms, religious zealotry, and war. Generations of people have come from cultures where it might have been illegal to practice their religion and they might have been forced into conversion or death.

This sense of alienation breeds a very specific outlook that is conditioned by the alienation. For example, an Ashkenazi Jewish outlook is to inwardly hold a certain level of suspicion that they will be attacked, kicked out, exiled. It's become a genetic inheritance to not feel settled entirely, to not rest because to do so would be dangerous. Thus, a back current of alienation and never quite belonging. We can have a completely safe environment, no pogroms, no Jewish ghettos, solid relationships and yet inside there can still be a deep sense of "I don't belong. I am different. I can't trust any of this. The rug can be pulled out any moment."

So, at a certain point a soul may start believing that being who they naturally are (thus being honest) is unsafe. They feel they don't belong, hence, the pessimism. Jupiter pessimism is big. It can sound like it knows what it's talking about and can be convincing.

Optimism is not the opposite of pessimism, as much as we'd like to think it is. Optimism, commonly regarded as "the glass is half full" is something I define as looking at life from the perspective of what works, what's usable, what's relevant and applicable to the betterment of one's life. Pessimism is literally the perception of what isn't working, what isn't useful, what isn't relevant. And thus, with pessimism, consciousness is focused *away* from one's unique path of growth and discovery which simply means the gifts of life are flying by and no one's there to catch them. Optimism, on the other hand, is where consciousness gives attention to what *is* naturally occurring from life itself. It is oriented towards growth, expansion, discovery, all things good.

Of course, optimism should not be confused with the sort of spiritual escape of always looking on the bright side. Or "I'm feeling lucky" (and losing your money at the casino, again). Such outlooks are more manifestations of the Jupiter dynamic of over-doing it, not knowing when to stop, always seeing life in terms of growth and opportunism.

Recognizing the opportunities that are available is different than compulsively seeking out positive sounding possibilities. The former has a certain flow and ease to it, we don't have to go out and seek them so much. We move towards them as they move towards us. The latter is entirely self-invented. We are doing all the moving and thus require that we uphold our convictions until we inevitably fall apart from exhaustion.

Final note on optimism: the root of the word is "optimal." Optimal implies more ideal, more favorable conditions. This is exactly what Jupiter is about. It doesn't settle because there's

always something more. Life in its infinite brilliance is never just what we know it to be. Our existing comprehension always falls short of the true Tao. And so, there's always, always, always more to understand and more to realize about the nature of reality. And realization is always a good thing, even if it's difficult.

CHAPTER 7: OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM PART 2

“The grass is always greener” is a Jupiter thing. This quote reflects the opportunistic side of Jupiter. I want to continue with the theme of pessimism and dissect deeper undercurrents of the “not here, but somewhere else” type of attitude. Then I will return to investigating the meaning of optimism and bring in some interesting astrological correlations.

Not Here, Not Now

The truth is, Jupiter in our chart is where we can *under appreciate* anything in life. This under appreciation expresses by way of seeking somewhere or something else other than right here, right now. The core of this seeking and perpetual dissatisfaction is based on the perception that the current reality is limiting and restrictive to the freedom needed to live in one’s truth.

What’s implied is that the current reality *requires* one to be unfree and is restrictive to one’s authentic movement in life. What’s implied is that right here and right now is something to escape because a soul cannot be true to its nature.

The psychology of alienation, not belonging, perpetually en route from somewhere to somewhere keeps a soul restless and inwardly believing that arrival does not exist. Existentially, this is actually an incredibly lonely kind of psychology. The Jupiter archetype generally has an outwardly optimistic and jolly attitude towards life: the levity of a traveler, problems are easy to solve, higher picture, larger perspective type of mentality. And yet on the inside there is often an internal irritation and need to escape, to get out to someplace better and thus an unaddressed internal loneliness.

On the one hand this seeking quality is useful, especially during certain phases of life when we simply need to play out a more youthful enthusiasm to explore and gain experiences. If that is resisted it can feel like precious opportunities are just flying by. Yet on the other hand if this seeking becomes a habit, it can amount to a life pattern of never arriving. It's like eating but never digesting. Relating but never listening or being truly heard. Having but not really enjoying. Working but never achieving. It's no wonder that gambling addictions are common in charts with strong Jupiter placements. It's a way to always have something to look forward to. The same can be said with going on the next spiritual retreat or seeking the next relationship.

Coping Mechanisms

The psychology of irritation and restlessness often manifests by way of consciousness being seemingly bound to something it truly wishes to escape and be away from. If there's somewhere better to be, then being right here can be incredibly irritating. There are three ways a soul deals with that within the Jupiter archetype:

1. Falling back on known ways of communicating, relating, and interacting with the world.

This might look like maintaining a certain optimism or "it's all good" kind of attitude but only as a way to not actually drop into the authentic moment. There can be an external facade of authenticity, but true relationship is actually missed because the inner attitude is one of staying "above" and not really connecting to one's immediate reality.

2. Overt dissatisfaction in the form of telling everyone what they should think, the right way to live, the right way to understand life. Because the Jupiter person believes themselves to not be where they ought to be, then they will have to be the teacher to

make everyone else learn the way to be such that they can feel better about being where they are. This can result in a habitual teacher identity: always being the wise or knowledgeable one in the room, always having answers. The teacher identity is not necessarily because of an overt identification with “knowing,” but because of a need to somehow reconcile with a deep inner sense of a soul not wanting to be where they currently are. In fact, I would suggest that at the core of the insistent “know it all” attitude is a defense mechanism protecting the soul from a deeply internalized belief that here isn’t enough and thus the inability to appreciate and learn more from this present moment.

3. Talking about somewhere or something else, endlessly. This can be the most irritating because, while there might not be attempts made to change anyone, consciousness is fixed on the idea that there is something more and the individual will simply not let go of that. Remember that Jupiter makes everything BIGGER. So, dissatisfaction can be magnified big time.

I recall in my early 20’s I had an incredibly deep yearning to see angels, to meet my spiritual teacher, to experience what I deeply knew to be beyond the ordinary world that we all tend to believe in. I sat with my friend during a meal and, without her consent, proceeded to talk about my discontent and dissatisfaction with my ordinary life. She got up and moved to a different table! Her getting up to move was actually enough for me to become self-aware and realize what I was doing. In fact, in that moment I became incredibly conscious of how I was creating separation and missing out on life because I was so insistent that there must be more to life than what meets the eye. I also woke up to how alienating I was making everyone else feel! I

have a Jupiter Neptune conjunction which in part reflects that I am inclined to spiritualize and seek the transcendent, the ultimate meaning in life. And yet if I constantly regard the “holy” as other than the “ordinary,” then I create a false duality and never ever find the holy.

Jupiter is where we can make others feel alienated and “not spiritual, fit, wealthy, aware, adequate enough,” etc. If I’m complaining about my dissatisfaction with my life as it is, then this can be taken as an indirect insult to whatever and whoever is currently in my life! Jupiter is where we can become incredibly dissuasive, alienating, insensitive, dismissive, talk/think/run over the reality right in front of us because we’re looking too far ahead to see and appreciate what is right now.

Optimism as Living in The Moment

Optimism can be defined as being open and conscious of the opportunities that simply *are* available right here and right now. To me, the attitude of optimism is the opposite of alienation, discontent, and the need for something better somewhere else. An optimistic attitude recognizes that the principles of reality are applicable right now. It seeks the wisdom of life, knowing that the Tao is always operative. In this awareness, there’s an inherent curiosity and joyful anticipation of “what’s next.” This anticipation does not take one out of the moment, rather it is a fuller expression of living in it.

I was recently playing with a child who literally saw every moment as an opportunity to have fun. He saw some leftover wood from a bench I was building as an opportunity to practice his skateboarding balancing skills. That wood wasn’t designated to be an object of play, no one said

that's what it's for. Rather, this boy, in his optimistic attitude towards life, saw the abundance of opportunities in front of him right now and completely went for it.

How often do we miss the opportunities for life and living right now because we are either waiting for some perfect ideal (Sagittarius square to Virgo) or because we are too in our heads about how it should logically work out (Sagittarius opposition to Gemini) that we are end up missing the spontaneous and intuitive flow of the moment.

Another example: When I walk my dog friend, I notice that everything is exciting and interesting, like an endless "yes!"

When I stop looking for the "way" and I turn towards what is available to me right now, I always find that a synchronistic flow of possibilities for growth, healing, and expansion opens up for me. When I live my life with what is immanently available to me in this moment, I experience life as incredibly relevant and freeing.

Sagittarius, Taurus, and Cancer

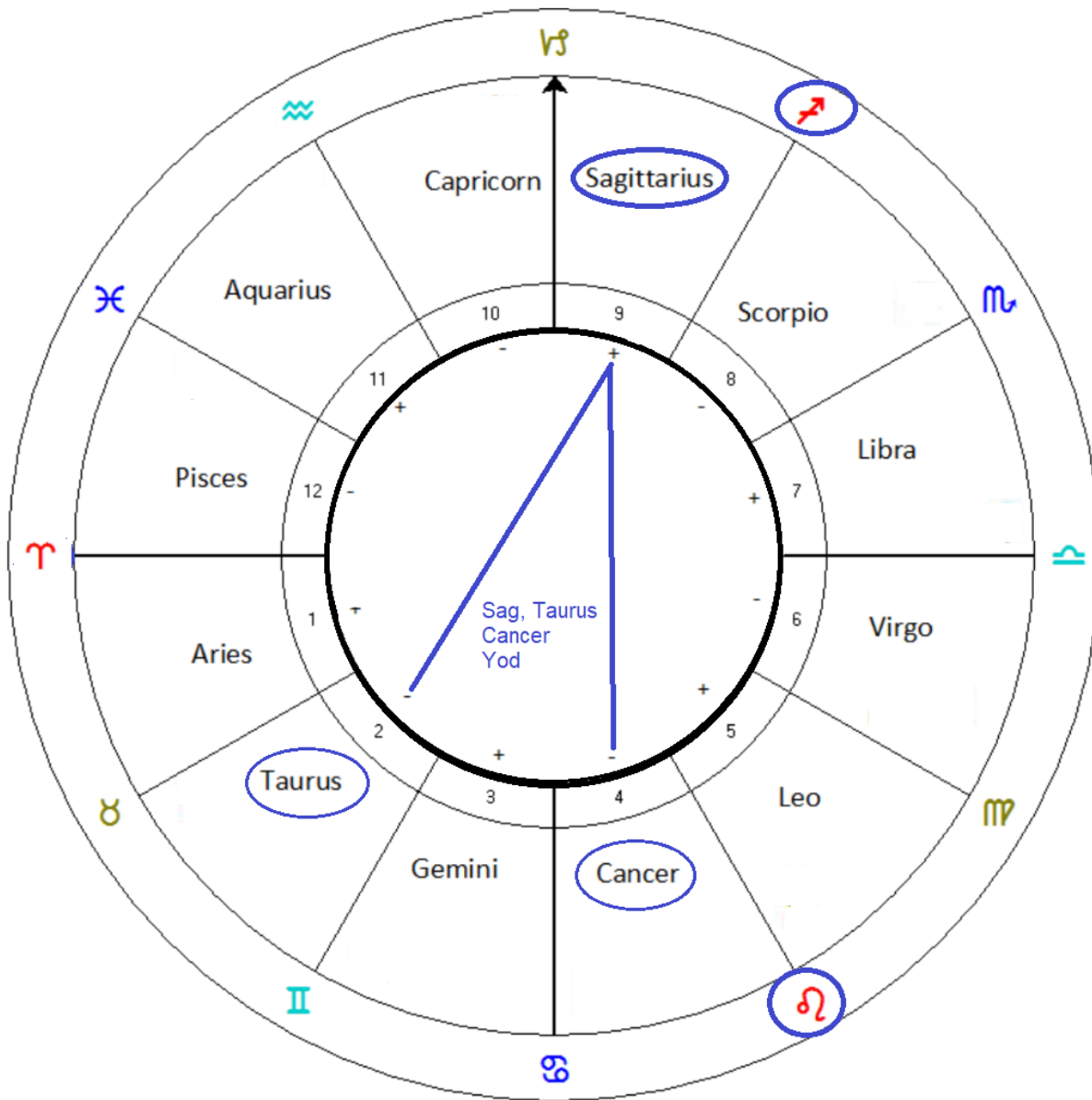


Figure 2. The Sagittarius Yod

Consider that Sagittarius forms an inconjunct to Taurus and Cancer. All together these three signs in relationship to one another are what astrologers call a yod (150-degree relationship in

both directions. See Figure 2). Yods represent awkward and seemingly irreconcilable energetics that can only be resolved and integrated by just doing it and letting go of figuring out how. Let's explore this and you'll see what I mean!

Sagittarius is about expansion and growth. Taurus is about stabilization, internalization, and embodiment. Cancer is about safety, nourishment, and the energetic experience of being at home. You can see how this can be an issue! Both Taurus and Cancer speak to a certain level of being here now; they are both about how we live and settle down here on Earth as human, biological, sensual, and emotional beings. Whereas Sagittarius is yang, mutable fire which, as we know, can be incredibly restless in seeking more. The yod between these three signs speaks to this tension and implies the very gem of optimism embedded within the Sagittarius/ Jupiter archetype.

The Sagittarius-Taurus-Cancer yod teaches us that the journey is actually at home, right where you are, in your body, where you get your needs met, where you can settle and be included, be nourished and cared for.

In some ways I would say that Cancer is the most opposite signs to Sagittarius in terms of Cancer being about a deep feeling of inclusion and belonging. Cancer is home, and belonging is at the core of home. We can actually say the same about Taurus, which is about inhabiting one's sensual experience of life in this moment; the ability to feel, receive, and live right now. So, for the expanded consciousness of Sagittarius to embrace the challenge of this yodal relationship with Taurus and Cancer is to come full circle back to right now. The journey

without distance, the path that leads to where you started, the pilgrimage to the most intimate place there is, the green grass that is currently growing under your feet, wet with the moisture of the breathing earth, growing and alive in this very moment.

This yod relationship doesn't mean we shouldn't travel or follow our intuitive guidance to go where life is calling us, rather it's an invitation to become aware of *how* we are moving. Can we arrive before we get there? This is a beautiful paradox and of course if we have already arrived, then our travels must not be about getting somewhere as much as it is about living more fully, authentically, honestly, sincerely as we truly are.

Appreciation

Jupiter is where we can really appreciate life. It's where we can see the inherent opportunity for growth and wisdom inherent in all life experiences. With Jupiter we sit by the river and uncover the principals of the Tao. If we humble ourselves, we can learn these lessons everywhere we go. If we are willing to know our lives as a pilgrimage, then life will always show us more and guide us along.

Chapter 8: LETTING GO TO RECEIVE

What occurs to me now is to share something unique that Jeffrey Wolf Green once taught. In fact, as far as I know, his teaching on this was a single sentence and I feel this sentence can be expounded upon to great depth although, of course, it's really simple. He once said:

“You have to give up something first to make room for the opportunity.”

There's an obviousness to this statement. If your hands are full you can't put anything else in them. If there's space, then you can receive. Do you recall what is one of the main tendencies with Jupiter? Stuffing in too much! Opportunism, overdoing it and not knowing when to stop.

This teaching is an antidote to that overdoing it. Letting go to create space for something new is pretty self-evident. To exemplify this concept, I'd like to offer a couple stories and bring in some astrology.

Letting go of my books

When I first got involved in astrology, I ended up amassing a large book collection. I don't think I actually read most of them, but they were there and for sure were very influential in my life for a short time.

It was 2005 and Jupiter was transiting over my Saturn in Scorpio in the 2nd house. At that point I got rid of all or most of my astrology books. I sort of gave up on astrology. It was an interesting time. I recall two moments, where I was and what I was doing when I had the disillusioning realization that I will never know what astrology really means. I realized that its vastness is

beyond what I could contain in my mind. I actually still feel that way. The difference between me then and me now is now I don't mind. Then, I was actually really sad about it. For a short period in my life I felt like a child who just found out Santa Clause isn't real. I knew there was so much more out there, and I didn't believe anyone really knew it. And so, all those books just made me feel worse. People talking about things they knew but also (in my perception at the time) unaware of how much they didn't know. I didn't want to entertain anything that stopped somewhere. So, I decided to not entertain anything.

My friend once said something I quote often. It's one of my favorite teachings, "Less is more. Nothing is everything." So, with Jupiter transiting my Saturn in Scorpio in the 2nd house, I got rid of all or almost all my books. Scorpio 2nd house: stripping away to what is of essence. I actually felt my books to be a heavy distraction from my own inner being. It was something I knew I needed to do. Mind you, I have the south node in Sagittarius in the 3rd house and lots of aspects to Mercury and Jupiter in Sagittarius, so getting rid of spiritual books was sort of an event in my life! It was a very bold and defining action for me.

I should qualify that up until that point I was studying astrology with never-ending enthusiasm for about 2 years. I was dabbling in a little bit of everything astrology. I was constantly thinking about it, looking at charts, googling topics, tribe.net (remember that place?), took a course with my first mentor Antero Alli, guessing everyone's signs...but I was now entering a new phase.

It was just that time that I got rid of all my books that I met with my new friend, Kai. Kai asked me what my ascendant was. I recall responding in a somewhat pessimistic way (a very Jupiter

thing to do) and said “eh, do any of us really know what that means? I feel like it’s real, but I don’t like to talk about it because it’s too abstract and deeper than our understanding.”

He said he had a couple books he wanted to show me. The first book was, “Sacred Marriage Astrology” (now SoulSign©) by Adam Gainsburg. I checked out the book and I also read some of Adam’s articles on his website. I was instantly drawn in. I completely resonated with every word he said. There was a consciousness and understanding of spirituality and awakening that was 100% intuitive to me. Adam was speaking the language I didn’t even know I was looking for.

Then Kai showed me the next book “Pluto the Evolutionary Journey of the Soul” by Jeffrey Wolf Green. The moment I read the intro to that book I felt an intense reaction. I was actually a bit jealous and angry. I felt / should have written those words.

And so, my destiny unfolded from there. I became a student of Adam, who I quickly learned had studied Jeff Green’s teachings. Adam generously nursed me on soul-centered astrology and a few years later I dived completely into Jeff Green’s Evolutionary Astrology.

What happened here? I let go and then I received. The flow of that experience was perfect. My letting go was sincere; something in me knew that shedding was necessary. Otherwise, I would have felt the Jupiter overload (Sag in the 3rd house: too many books equaling confusion and lack of clear insight). My interest in Adam’s and Jeff’s teachings was also sincere. Everything occurred naturally and spontaneously.

We can look upon the famous Jupiter “opportunities” not as something we need to go out and seek. Our alignment with them is quite a natural process. All we need to do is be sincere in our own life, reduce what is in excess, and let go of what is taking up too much space. During any strong Jupiter transit in our lives it’s very common to undergo a certain stripping away.

The “letting go to receive” is not just a conscious act. Sometimes life will literally take something from us. I’ve seen both the death of a loved one or something of importance in one’s life suddenly taken away. What this can do is place a magnified focus on the area of life where the loss was experienced. “Nature abhors a vacuum” (idiom attributed to Aristotle) and so something always comes in. The reduction of something from someone’s life so often has the consequence of creating space for something greater that serves the soul’s ongoing growth in life. This is the generosity of the Tao: on its own, life shuffles and re-organizes to foster harmony and well-being.

I once wrote a poem inspired by the teachings of Lao Tzu in which he said, “to straighten something, let it be bent.” To which I add,

To fill something, let it be empty

To be found, let yourself be lost

For only that which is empty can be filled

Only that which is lost can be found

The Books Come Back

I got rid of my books in 2005 and since then I've only owned a handful of astrology books, most of which have moved on. It seems that I've always had what I've needed and have never felt the draw to acquire more books for the past fourteen years of my life.

Fast forward to 2020. I'm currently living with my partner Michelle, her son, and our daughter. Michelle happens to be an astrologer! And guess what? She has lots and lots of astrology books. What makes this a Jupiter story is that her Jupiter is conjunct my Saturn.

To clarify the punch line: when transiting Jupiter moved over my Saturn I let go of my books. When I moved into the same home with Michelle, who has her Jupiter on my Saturn, many of those books, and for sure more, returned to my world! Wise are the ways of the Tao.

CHAPTER 9: LESS IS MORE; NOTHING IS EVERYTHING

I've had many experiences of being low on funds and so I have had to make do with what I had in the kitchen. There's something about this experience that yields far more creative, delicious, and enjoyable food creations than what I might normally create if I had the means to buy new food items.

Why is that? It is because the lack of options increases creative vision to make do with what is available to full capacity. Not having a lot but using all that you have is actually more abundant and engaging than having a lot and not using most of it.

When we live modestly but within our full capacity, we are fully present and awake to the fullness of life. Whereas in the case of having a lot but not using most of it, we actually live in a constant stagnation—surrounded by an energy that doesn't reflect our own true self.

We can feel this when we walk into a home. The feel isn't based on a quantity, but a quality of presence. The books, the spices, the instruments. We can feel it when a person is living with what they have. It's as if their home is an extension of their own individuality.

The Book Ends Here

When we live within our full capacity and don't try to add more, what we do have seems to increase in value. Stopping here and creating this book as a meaningful, simple, and accessible series of teachings feels natural and authentic to me. Adding more would be an attempt to become something I am not right now.

When we don't add to what is already enough, we remain clear and present in this moment.

Here we can naturally see what is next, where Tao naturally wishes to move.

Less is more. Waiting to eat until you are hungry reveals exactly what the body wants.

Remaining uncommitted until you come to understand your capacities will yield strong and firm commitments. Starting with nothing and always returning to see *what's here now* will reveal to you the actual terrain of your life journey.

Live simply, be authentic, be true to yourself and your own path. In this way we harmonize with life and grow immensely.

About the Author

Ari Moshe Wolfe is a musician, astrologer, teacher, and father. www.arimoshe.com

