



## What is Covered in a Personal Shamanic Astrology Session

for sessions with Cayelin K Castell, co-founder of the Shamanic Astrology Mystery School

Welcome to this Introduction describing what you will experience in a Shamanic Astrology Session with Cayelin Castell. What follows is a more in depth explanation beyond what will be mentioned in your session to keep the focus on you during the session. This overview covers:

- The Philosophy of Shamanic Astrology, including how it is not Predictive'
- How this is not Sun Sign Astrology and all signs and planets are equally valid
- How the natal chart helps you understand your soul's intent, what main mysteries you are investigating
- The Significance of Your current Initiation Cycles or what Time it is for you
- And an investigation into relationships through chart comparison
- The Turning of a 26,000 year cycle
- What is a Mystery School
- And a blank Medicine Wheel you can fill in if you like

Shamanic Astrology is a system sourced by Daniel Giamario in the early 1980's. This system continues to evolve as our understanding and awareness evolves so it is a living and breathing body of knowledge that connects us profoundly with the As Above, So Below Mysteries recognizing that **we inform the mysteries as much as they inform us**. It is a living relationship that was lost and is being remembered and reclaimed for the benefit of all humanity - not just an elite few as in our more recent past.

Shamanic Astrology sessions operate within an archetypal and mythical framework designed to support you in fulfilling your personal life's purpose through greater awareness of what that purpose is. Said another way this is a way to gain insight into how Great Mystery is intended to express through your life. This is done by tuning into your natal birth chart or personal blueprint or soul map (based on where the planets were when you born) with the understanding that these mysteries are also experiencing a rapid acceleration in their own evolution as lived through us.

**Shamanic Astrology sessions are NOT predictive**, rather they operate from the premise that each person is in charge of their own choices and therefore their own destiny. With this in mind, Shamanic Astrology sessions are geared to provide you with valuable insights, tools, and guidance including *What Time It Is For You*.

Based on our most recent culture many feel they are *supposed* to be a certain way and live their life according to the desires of their family, partner or culture. Shamanic Astrology sessions give you validation for who you really are and often that comes with permission (if needed) to be who you truly are and not who others want you to be.

**We are at a Great Turning of the Ages** meaning our perception of time continues to accelerate and collective confusion is prevalent. A Shamanic Astrology session offers a valuable tool for confirming what you already know, or sense, assisting you in trusting our own inner knowing and inner process. As you comprehend and embrace

the essence or our soul's original intent, while making informed choices on your personal journey, you are actively "dreaming the dream onward" as described by Carl Jung while also co-creating a New Earth that works for everyone.

## **The Overview and Philosophy**

Shamanic Astrology assists a person in taking responsibility for their life experience and is based in the hermetic principle "As Above, So Below, As Within, So Without!" This approach is NOT operating from the perspective of Cause and Effect! Rather it operates from the understanding already mentioned that we inform the mysteries as much as they inform us. It is meant to be a living relationship between us and Great Mystery.

This also operates from the understanding that the cycles or patterns of the outer world correspond to the inner cycles and patterns of our own psyche. When we know this and work with it, we have the power to make more informed choices. These cycles and patterns represent the life journey and the initiations that happen along the way are designed to assist each person in fulfilling their current life intent. This has been defined as *synchronicity*, meaning events that happen together in time. One does not cause the other rather they exist together. They are acausal and yet inter-related, the outer cycles are not the cause of what we experience; rather the cycles and what we experience are reflections of each other.

Many of our great mythic themes rooted in our current culture, are also rooted in our consciousness. These mythic stories are quite often linked to the star patterns or constellations in our night sky.

## **The Natal Birth Chart is Your Blueprint**

Your natal birth chart provides valuable clues about your original intent for incarnating. The symbols and archetypes of the natal chart are statements of intent not determinations. A human being always has the freedom to choose to cooperate, or NOT, with their original intent. This means we are not forced to be a certain way but rather we have the freedom to choose our life path. However, many find living in alignment with their original soul's intent is the path to their greatest sense of fulfillment and happiness.

### **Intent**

It is helpful to know that if you happen to know twelve individuals with Sun in Aries, and Scorpio Rising, they will not all be the same. This is because each person brings their own unique creative energy to the archetypes, and they will find their own way of expressing these energies. What is important to know is that even though these 12 individuals are NOT the same - they do all have the same intent.

The main purpose in a session is to give you an understanding of your original intent, assisting you, through the power of knowledge, in taking command and control of your own life, while also giving you a vision of possibilities, that are aligned with your soul's intent.

## **The Quest for Meaning and Purpose**

This is based on the idea that the predominant human motivation is not survival, not power, not sexuality, but rather is ultimately the quest for meaning and purpose and that is the real foundation of what drives people. For example, when a person is going through a challenging time it is easier to handle when they have a sense of meaning from the larger context of what is going on for them. Very often this is what helps them forward.

When a person can discern the underlying meaning, then they can create a life that has purpose and magic. Without a sense of meaning and purpose then depression, or feeling life is not worth living, is common. The gift Shamanic Astrology offers includes a sense of what that purpose and meaning is from the context of the natal birth chart, along with the initiation cycles happening at the time of the session.

## **This is Not Sun Sign Astrology**

Shamanic Astrology does not emphasize Sun Signs. The Sun is one of many factors on the natal chart. In the last 150 years an emphasis was placed on Sun signs because it is the easiest to determine based on the month and day of the year a person is born. There is only one day each month a person might not know their Sun Sign without the birth chart. This means a large majority of people can easily figure out their Sun Sign.

Before the popularization of Sun Sign Astrology, those who knew astrology gave their Moon sign when asked what their sign was. The reason for this was and is because the Moon Sign is far more personal than the Sun Sign. The Sun is in a sign for thirty days. The Moon is in a sign for only two and a half days. This is why the Moon is more personal to who you are. However, just using the sign of the Moon is also limiting, because the chart as a whole is important. Extracting any one element does not adequately identify a person's life purpose or intent for incarnating.

## **All Signs and Planets are Equally Valid**

In the Shamanic Astrology Paradigm ALL of the archetypes of the signs and planets are equally important. For example, the planets can show up in any one of twelve different signs. No one sign is better or worse for any planet. Eliminating these judgments means Shamanic Astrology does not use the hierarchical language of exaltation or detriment often used in traditional systems of astrology.

## **Recent Judgments of Some of the Signs are Cultural**

In recent times there have been negative judgments for those with certain signs, for example Virgo or Scorpio. Virgo is considered cold, critical and nitpicky. Scorpio is considered dark, scary, extremely intense and controlling. If this happens to be your Moon sign these judgments often disconnect a person from the essence of their mastery and skill set they bring into this life. It turns out the Cancer Moon is considered an exalted place for the Moon to be in more traditional astrology approaches and is often experienced as extremely challenging, especially for women who have their identity based on caring for others but are now here to do something else.

It is time we move beyond the judgments of the signs and recognize that there are many valid ways of being human and healthy understanding of these ways are important to experience wholeness. Judgments about some signs being better than others is simply a misunderstanding of the pure essence found in each of the archetypes. It is time to again know, understand, and validate the full spectrum of human potential, including all the archetypes, and all the different possibilities available.

This viewpoint is a remedy for patriarchal extremes that has elevated the Sun Sign as one God (the male principle) above all others. We are in a time of return to an equal balance between the masculine and feminine principles. One principle, or one seasonal sign, or one planet, does not operate in a healthy way without reference to all the rest.

## **The Natal Chart is a Script or Blueprint, or Statement of Intent**

There are three parts to a Shamanic Astrology Session focusing on the lineage, or skill set we bring into this life, the tools and equipment we are learning to use and the new Mystery Schools of current life intent.

**The Lineage** operates from the premise that we not a blank slate when we are born. Everyone is born with a way of being that includes habits, attitudes, addictions, and expectations along with a certain skill set or mastery around a particular way of being. The sign of the Moon is the primary indicator of past life themes, what tribe a person comes from, what university they have a PhD. from, the family history, and what is written in the genetic code.

This is not literal past life work, however, the Moon describes the essence of what a person is bringing with them from a mythological perspective. Whether a person has literally had these experiences in past lives is irrelevant, because these stories work to describe the challenges a person is facing or has faced.

We each have a personal mythology represented by the symbols on the natal chart that have to do with the lineage or who we use to be. For example, a person with a Capricorn Moon has mastery in the area of the Capricorn archetype or *Mystery School*\*. (see Mystery School Definition on the last written page)

The Capricorn Moon use to be the Elder, the Wise One, the leader who responsibly held it together for others and were able to get measurable results that benefitted the greater collective. This means that person has a past connection to that version of reality.

This introduction is not designed to go into the meaning of all the different Moon positions, or the meanings associated with the other parts of the chart. Rather, this is designed to share the structure of how the chart operates, so when a person receives their session they have an idea of what will be covered. Shamanic Astrology sessions start with the Moon because knowledge of the Moon helps to determine the addictions and attachments a person most likely has or has had. It also represents the areas of life where a person may need to get their power back.

It is important to know it doesn't matter how impeccable you are with your lineage; even you are living these principles perfectly, it is a trap to continue on in the same old way. Said another way, **even if done perfectly it is insufficient to your liberation and sense of fulfillment.** Living according to the principles of the Moon is regressive. At best, the Moon is the foundation, the ground one stands on that supports what is intended in your new Mystery School, but without attachment to the old identity.

Interestingly, the Moon is the only portion of the entire horoscope that has much to do with how a person tends to be when they come into this life. Virtually everything else on the chart describes statements of intent. That's why the Moon in more traditional forms of astrology describes personality traits, general characteristics, instincts, and qualities a person has when they are born.

## Tools and Equipment

The second part of the chart reading has to do with the Tools and Equipment of the current life. There are four main symbols that determine what these are, including the Sun, Mercury, Venus, and Mars. The Sun is best understood as the fuel a person burns, or their style of behavior intended to get them to their current life goals as quickly as possible. The Venus and Mars position are more archetypally significant than the Sun as they have to do with the version of the feminine or masculine principles a person is working on in the current life.

### Venus and Mars

Shamanic Astrology recognizes there are 12 Gods and 12 Goddesses (24 total archetypes) with different stories, different myths, and a different set of themes or mysteries. This provides a more comprehensive set of possibilities for how the masculine and feminine archetypes are showing up. Every Venus and Mars position is equally valid and important.

Venus and Mars are archetype specific in regard to the feminine and masculine expressions that are possible influenced by the Sun sign. Once Venus and Mars are understood, then we say they burn the fuel of the Sun adding an additional understanding. Approximately one out of twelve men have Sun and Mars in the same sign, and approximately one out of four women have Sun and Venus in the same sign. That means the majority of people have an individualistic feature meaning Venus and/or Mars is in a different sign and that requires understanding the archetype of the Venus or Mars and then adding the Sun for an additional nuance.

Remember, these are statements of intent that have to do with the directional flow or tendencies around what a person is learning about in the current life. Again if we have twelve people with Scorpio Rising they will express differently, however they will all have the same intent. This is why this form of astrology is not provable by mechanistic, linear, scientific methods, as intent cannot be quantified.

What we do know for those with Scorpio, they either, desire to develop the qualities of Scorpio or they are already in the process of developing them. However, due to factors already mentioned (as well as ones yet to be mentioned) these people are not all the same. Spiritual psychology is not quantifiable in a mechanistic, left brained, logical, rational way, because it is dynamic and progressive, and needs conscious awareness to be activated.

Mercury has to do with what a person is learning about in the area of communication, cognition and perception of reality. This aspect is often not covered in a first time reading unless there are important transits to Mercury or there is time left at the end of the session to cover it. For those who get follow up sessions taking a deeper dive into Mercury can be very illuminating.

## **The Ascendant and Other Angles of the Chart**

The third phase of the session focuses on the New Mystery School for your current life. This is the most individualizing and important part of the chart that can only be known with a birth time. The angles of the chart change degrees every four minutes or so, and change signs about every two hours, cycling through all 12 signs in a 24 hour period so is this is the most individual and personal information available describing the primary intent of why you are here and what it is that is most unique to you.

If you don't have a birth time there is still a lot of very useful information to be had from the other parts of the chart that are important and helpful. Yet, it is the angles of the chart that deal directly with experiential astrology or what is rising over the Eastern Horizon, what is setting over the Western Horizon and what is at the highest point of the ecliptic and what is below the Earth (unseen).

**The Rising Sign or Ascendant** is the primary symbol for determining a person's current life Mystery School\* or life purpose, or the Personal Identity Project.

**The Midheaven**, or highest point on the ecliptic and symbolizes the Right Livelihood Project or where we make our greatest creative contribution in the world. Historically, astrologers have focused on what is coming up over the eastern horizon, and what is directly overhead at the time of birth as the most important symbols of a person's fate or destiny. Shamanic Astrology also shares this view.

**The Rising Sign or Ascendant** reveals the enlightenment path for the current life. Note: this is not an attempt to define spiritual enlightenment, as it exists beyond duality and is difficult to define. Rather, this is about acknowledging the reality that different people have different paths to reach their place of self-actualization, or total freedom. From the perspective of Shamanic Astrology no one path is better or more important than any other.

There are twelve distinct paths with infinite variations on how to fully achieve mastery of that specific path. The following are a few brief examples that are limited to the Rising Sign only. All the other factors on the chart are important for a comprehensive picture.

**Libra Rising** suggests a person can't truly reach enlightenment without experiencing some form of nonhierarchical, conscious equal partnership. It is the process oriented path of relationship.

**Scorpio Rising** requires the person to master life force energy. It is a tantric path that includes feeling the feelings that support a person in going to the edge of **passionate** aliveness and intensity.

**The Sagittarius or Aquarius Rising** path requires the development of detachment and cosmic overview as they explore expanded states of consciousness and objective awareness.

**Capricorn or Cancer Rising are householder paths.** Capricorn is developing responsible administration of their domain or community and Cancer is developing responsible nurturing of the family or projects that further sustainability for the next several generations.

See the [Shamanic Astrology Handbook](#) for more in depth descriptions of all 12 signs.

These are examples of how there are different legitimate paths to finding a state of freedom or comprehensive self-actualization that helps to answer these questions:

- What is my contribution?
- What is my soul's intent for this life?
- What God or Goddess am I here to learn about and express in new ways?
- What is my dharma, or what practices and activities help me fulfill my soul's intent?
- What is my unique creative self-expression?"

## The Outer Planets as Strategy

In Shamanic Astrology, the outer planets represent the strategy. Shamanic Astrology uses the term **dynamic aspects** formed by squares, oppositions, and conjunctions (referred to as hard aspects in other systems) is more descriptive and less judgmental than the term hard aspects. When there are dynamic aspects between personal planets (Moon, Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars) and outer planets (Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) it is a strategy to support the soul's journey through life.

Dynamic aspects from outer planets to inner planets or the angles of the chart usually indicate challenging situations intended to help us Wake Up. If a person doesn't have any dynamic aspects or has very few dynamic aspects they may find their life is more on a coasting path. Of course that can change when they are in a major Pluto or Saturn cycle.

Some people have highly melodramatic lives and are constantly at the effect of extreme and dramatic events designed to create a reaction or a response due to the intensity. These are often Saturn and/or Pluto type strategies that force change and growth.

## There are NO Bad Aspects

From the Shamanic Astrology perspective there are no "bad" aspects or judgments of either positive or negative, about any strategy. The strategy is designed to facilitate an understanding of life in ways that the average person may never be aware of or know. So even if it is extremely challenging and difficult to go through these events, the gift is that it facilitates growth and empowerment.

## Initiation Cycles

In a Shamanic Astrology session the first step is to look at the basic elements of the chart (a.k.a the Script), and then look at the strategy. After the investigation of the strategy, it is time to look at the Initiation Cycles. Often, the main reason many individuals choose to get an astrology reading is because of the changes and challenges, they are they are currently experiencing.

These Initiation Cycles are a natural process and are actually supportive when a human being consciously participates with them. This means that if a person knows what cycle they are in, and they know how to work with that cycle, they will gain maximum benefit as a result. For example, there are times in every person's life when all the doors are closed and forward progressive movement is not happening. During this time there are far better things a person could do than continue to try to force certain results in the middle world.

Conversely, there are timings when all the doors are open, but if you don't know that, and you don't take advantage of that timing, then valuable opportunities may be missed. Remember, no cycle is good or bad. All cycles have a reason for being. When we know we are in one of these cycles, we can consciously give ourselves permission to experience the intent of the cycle.

For example, there are cycles that are totally confusing meaning it is a time for a walk-about, a time for vision quest, a time when it is completely okay to not know. Conversely, there are cycles when it is time for to be clear and focused, and take some kind of specific action. There are some cycles that are free spaces. Admittedly these are rare however, a free spaces is a time when a person is closer to conscious free will than any other time meaning an astrological initiation cycle is not creating additional growth challenges.

### **Phases of the Initiation Cycles**

Initiation Cycles have a beginning, middle, and end. Knowing what cycle you are in is liberating helping you understand what Time it is for you. Knowledge of the precise astrological phase of the cycle gives us specific dates you can use in a ceremonial way if you choose to engage it that way. These dates do not necessarily indicate some amazing event scheduled to happen from the outside.

Rather, knowledge of the Timing allows you the option of letting the universe know, you know what is going on, and you are choosing to align with the intent. This means you can be consciously co-creating with universal intelligence and that is when the inward and outward cycles move into alignment.

This information is not only important, but useful with reference to relationships. For example, two people who have been in a long lasting stable and happy relationship may be confused when one or both partners move into a new cycle. The person going through one of these cycles is no longer the same. However, knowing a cycle has a beginning, middle and end, helps you to understand the process and intent of the cycle. It helps you know the cycle will end and ordinary reality will return, ideally having been transformed into something even more wonderful.

### **Relationship Comparisons**

Relationship comparisons are another important area to look at and often are done in follow up sessions as there is only so much time to cover all your personal information in an initial session. If relationship is the biggest question in your life right now we can take a brief look at that in your first session.

Many people getting a session have questions either about their relationship, about a new person in their life, or their lack of relationship, and what they can do about it. Shamanic Astrology looks at what a person is attracted to, and what the chart indicates *relationship intent* is. It is important to know these are two completely separate issues and knowing about them helps you to make more informed choices for yourself.

### **Relationship Intent**

The ascendant/descendant axis describes what the relationship intent is. These are similar to the characteristics looked at by cultures that did arranged marriages, or marriages based upon family history, class, and/or economic status.

There are many different possibilities for relationship intent. Shamanic Astrology recognizes and validates each of these. The natal birth chart also has information on romantic love and physical attraction or connection with the 'magical masculine' and the 'magical feminine'. We are all wired to be attracted to a certain kind of person. About two-thirds of the time what we are attracted to and our true relationship intent are drastically different.

Many of the difficulties people have in relationship are due to this reason. In fact, the great majority of the time when relationships don't work, it's not because one person lacked merit. The reason it didn't work may have been because each person had a different intent for relationship. This is why it is important to understand the 'inner sacred marriage'.

The inner sacred marriage is when a you walk through life with the magical feminine (if you are a man) or the magical masculine (if you a woman) on your arm at all times, regardless of who you are with or whether you have a partner. This means the inner sacred marriage includes owning and taking responsibility for the inner masculine or inner feminine.

When the inner sacred marriage is handled it doesn't matter if a person has a successful relationship or not, because they are now complete, autonomous, and sovereign. However, once the inner sacred marriage takes place, some people will and some people won't be on a path of relationship. The natal chart helps to sort this question out. The people who have the most difficulty with relationship are almost always the ones who have outer planet strategies that require them to do the inner sacred marriage.

These same techniques of chart comparison also work in helping to sort out the circumstances with parents, brothers, sisters, friends, coworkers and business partners. However, as mentioned earlier, for the purposes of a first time 90 minute session there is only time for brief comparison work with one person. Please note there is an additional \$15.00 charge per chart for comparison due to the extra preparation time.

## **How this information is Helpful in General**

How can we truly live in freedom unless we KNOW all the possibilities for human expression? For example, if a person's distinct color or life purpose expression is turquoise blue, and they are born into a family that only sees red and white, what happens to turquoise blue? Most likely they are not seen for who they really are.

They may be totally ignored and therefore do not receive any validation or feedback for how well they are doing with their color, with their life intent. Or perhaps a person is born into a family or culture that punishes them for being a different color even though it is the color they are legitimately here to express.

**Magic happens in our life when three things are in alignment.** One, it is the right timing. Two, we have our tools together. Three, our desire is in alignment with the original life dreams or soul's intent. The greatest fulfillment happens when we are legitimately expressing our intended life path. If these three things are present, life is magical. If any one of those three things is not in place, then at best we must be patient while expanding our self-awareness.

## **The Turning of the Ages**

Collective humanity is at the end and beginning of entire 26,000 year cycle. The exact alignment happened in May 1998 when the Winter Solstice Sun aligned exactly on the Galactic Cross. The window of this transition is at least 72 years starting in 1962 and going until 2034 with a likely longer window of time adding 36 years on either side of this Timing. At the end of a major cycle, everything speeds up and is recapitulated. The origination point is nearly 26,000 years in the past.

This means all of the dreams and visions each of us has had on our personal time track are reaching completion. The dreams we have dreamed are now to be fulfilled. That's why it is so important to be in touch with what the original life dreams are. We are also dreaming the dream of the next cycle seeding the next 26,000 years as we are the transition team - whether we are aware or not, this is happening.

### **How You Can Consciously Participate**

It helps to know your soul's intent, and to know your personal timings. Being at the end of a 26,000 year cycle most of the principles of traditional astrology, either don't work or are irrelevant, often representing issues that are not very useful to people at this time. In the midst of this speeded up phenomenon we need tools to help us tune in as fast as possible to our soul's original intent for the purpose of making more conscious choices that support the fulfillment of why we are here.

Equally important is using the astrological timings with as much awareness as possible, so we are consciously cooperating with and co-creating with the intelligence of the universe.

### **This version of astrology works best as dialogue.**

The more you can share and bring to the session the more depth can come from it, and the more insight you will get. The exactness and precision of this process operates directly from the amount of feedback that takes place. It is the soul-to-soul encounter, it is not an abstraction, or something that can be done on a computer.

Through the soul-to-soul encounter, the symbols and myths, along with the archetypes of the Gods and Goddesses come alive. They are cellularly and consciously enlivened, and this assists you on your journey of discovery around how the archetypes and symbols are intended to express through you?

Myths and stories tell us how the archetypes and symbols expressed in the past. Now they are evolving and seeking new expression through each of us. We are the living, evolving archetypes and myths! Shamanic Astrology supports this process of discovery by providing greater understanding and awareness that empowers us to find creatively fun and fulfilling ways to live our divine destiny.

### **And so it IS!**

**\*The term Mystery School** as described by Shamanic Astrology is the direct experience of the soul's journey exploring and discovering specific archetypal expressions that further self-awareness and self-discovery in all aspects of life including spiritually. These Mystery Schools are not about secrets available only to those who are initiated into certain teachings but rather the direct experience of life itself.

Another way to think of mystery is "my story" as in living the story or experience of one's personal life. The mysteries (archetypal patterns) you are here to explore, investigate and help evolve are the stories we are rewriting, revisioning, and recreating at this Turning of The Great Wheel of Time.

This also takes into account the Native American Concept of *Great Mystery* or *Great Spirit* or the creative force behind all creation. Ultimately we are all here to co-create with Great Mystery and the archetypal mystery schools are one way to understand that co-creative process.

# Medicine Wheel of the Soul

During your session you will be able to fill in  
your personal Medicine Wheel.

