



What is Covered in a Personal Alchemical 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 an Alchemical Astrology Session (the evolution of Shamanic Astrology) 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 Alchemical Astrology, including how it is NOT Predictive
- How this is NOT Sun Sign Astrology - considering all signs and planets are equally valid
- How your natal chart helps you understand your soul's intent, what main mysteries you are investigating and where you will find the greatest Fulfillment
- The Significance of Your current Initiation Cycles or what Time it is for You
- Can include a brief investigation into relationships through chart comparison
- Why we are living in an extraordinary time due to the end and beginning of a 26,000 year cycle
- What is a Mystery School?
- And a blank Medicine Wheel you can personalize

Shamanic Astrology was sourced by Daniel Giamario in the early 1980's. Over the years of practice and living experience an evolution and recognition of Alchemy has continued to evolve as has our understanding of the As Above, So Below Mysteries based in the perspective 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.

Alchemical 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 personal blueprint or soul map as described by your natal chart (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.

Alchemical Astrology sessions are NOT predictive, rather they operate from the premise that each person oversees their own choices and therefore their own destiny. With this in mind, Alchemical Astrology sessions are designed 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 or Live a certain way according to the desires of their family, partner, or culture. Alchemical 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 shifting from one 26,000 Great Year to an entirely new 26,000 Great Year meaning our perception of time continues to accelerate and collective confusion is prevalent. An Alchemical Astrology session offers valuable insights often 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 of our soul's original intent, while making informed choices on your personal journey, you are actively co-creating your life or "dreaming the dream onward" as described by Carl Jung while also co-creating a New Earth that works for everyone.

The Overview and Philosophy

Alchemical 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 is NOT a Cause and Effect perspective! 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 each of 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 is currently 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 or Soul Map

Your natal birth chart indicates what your soul's original intent was for incarnating. The symbols and archetypes of the natal chart are statements of intent not determinations. A human being always has the freedom 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. Based on experience it seems living in alignment with the soul's original intent is how we can truly live the greatest sense of fulfillment and happiness.

Intent

If you 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 all navigating life in the same way - they do all have the same intent.

The main purpose during your session is to give you an understanding of your original intent, assisting you, through the power of knowledge about the mysteries you are here to engage, helps you make more informed choices, while also giving you a vision of possibilities aligned with why you are here. Choosing to align with your soul's intent is the path to greater fulfillment.

The Quest for Meaning and Purpose

This is based on the idea that the predominant human motivation is not survival, not power, not sexuality, not amassing a fortune, or being famous, but rather is ultimately the quest for meaning and purpose. For example,



when you are going through a challenging time you will most likely find it is easier to handle when you have a sense of meaning from the larger context of what is going on from the perspective this is happening FOR you.

When you can discern the underlying meaning, then you 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 Alchemical 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

Alchemical 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 exact Sun Sign without having a birth chart. This is why most 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. The chart as a whole is significant to understanding life purpose. Extracting any one element does not adequately identify a person's life purpose or intent for incarnating.

All Signs and Planets are Equally Valid

Alchemical Astrology regards ALL the archetypes of the signs and planets as 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 Alchemical Astrology does not use the hierarchical language of exaltation or detriment often used in more 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 one of these signs happens to be your Moon these judgments may have the effect of disconnecting a person from the essence of their mastery and skill set they bring into this life. Traditionally a Cancer Moon is considered an exalted place for the Moon to be. However, many experience this Moon placement 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. It is time to 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 Blueprint, or Statement of Intent

There are three parts to a Alchemical Astrology Session focusing on what skills we bring into this life (lineage), the support we have for learning new skills and perspectives as we embrace the new Mystery Schools of current life intent.

The Lineage operates from the premise that we are 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 their genetic code.

The Moon describes the essence of what a person is bringing with them from a mythological perspective, so this is not literal past life work but many often resonant with this perspective as if it is. 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 and also where they may feel most comfortable within themselves.

We each have a personal mythology represented by the symbols on the natal chart that have to do with who we use to be. For example, a person with a Capricorn Moon has mastery in the area of the Capricorn*. (see Mystery School Definitions 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.

Alchemical 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 if done perfectly it is insufficient to your 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.

The Moon is the only aspect that has much to do with how a person tends to be when they come into this life. 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.



Essential to the Journey

The second part of the chart reading has to do with personal factors of development. 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

In this system we recognize 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 to all the feminine and masculine expressions possible and are additionally influenced by the Sun sign. Once Venus and Mars are understood, then we say they burn the fuel of the Sun adding to the Venus and Mars signature.

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 most people have an individualistic feature meaning Venus and/or Mars is in a different sign providing additional understanding of the archetype of Venus or Mars.

Remember, these factors represent the intent that have to do with the directional flow or tendencies around what a person is learning about in the current life.

For example, those with Scorpio rising are here to develop the qualities of Scorpio. They may already be well on their way in 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. It is progressive and it needs conscious awareness to be activated.

Mercury indicates 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 a first time 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 about every four minutes, changing signs about every two hours, cycling through all 12 signs in a 24 hour period. This is why the angles are the most personal, 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 birthtime, a lot of useful information can still be had from the other parts of the chart that are important and helpful. That said, it is the angles of the chart that deal directly with 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) at the time of birth.

The Rising Sign or Ascendant is the primary symbol for determining a person's current life Mystery School* or life purpose and the intended exploration around Personal Identity.

The Midheaven, or highest point on the ecliptic and symbolizes where we are intended to 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 and significant symbols of a person's destiny. Alchemical Astrology shares this point of view.

The Rising Sign or Ascendant reveals the enlightenment path for the current life. Note: this is not an attempt to define spiritual enlightenment. The term enlightened exists beyond duality and is difficult to define. Rather, this is about acknowledging the reality that different people have different paths regarding self-actualization, or total freedom. No one path is better or more important than any other.

Using the astrological model there are twelve primary 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.

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.

Libra Rising suggests a person can't truly reach enlightenment without experiencing some form of co-creative, collaborative, conscious equal partnership.

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 Initiators, Teachers, and Guides

The outer planets are in Signs for a while and help to define generations. For example, Saturn is in a sign for 2.5 years. Uranus is in a sign for 7 years. Neptune is in a sign for 14 years. Chiron is in a sign from as little as 1 year up to 7 years. Pluto is in a sign for as little as 12 years up to 30 years. The Outer Planets then become more personal when in dynamic aspect to personal planets, angles or Nodes.

Dynamic aspects are squares, oppositions, and conjunctions both natally and by transit and give us important clues about the intended life journey as well as what time it is for us.

Using the term Dynamic Aspects (referred as hard aspects in other systems) is more descriptive and removes the judgment that tends to occur around the term *hard aspects*. When there are dynamic aspects with Angles, Nodes or Personal Planets (Moon, Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars) and the outer planets (Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) it reveals the initiatory path we have chosen to navigate this life.

Dynamic aspects from outer planets to inner planets or the angles of the chart usually indicate challenging situations designed to ignite a deeper awareness and empower that aspect of life. If a person has very few or even no dynamic aspects they will still encounter all of these energies by transit. Knowing the intent helps us to navigate these cycles.

There are those who have melodramatic lives and seem to be constantly at the effect of extreme dramatic events designed to inspire greater awareness that are demanding change and growth. It is all about perspective.

There are NO Bad Aspects

This view of the astrological mysteries is based in the understanding that there are no “bad” aspects or judgments either positive or negative. These planetary aspects are designed to facilitate an understanding and experience that would otherwise be unavailable. That is why extremely challenging and difficult experiences can be the greatest gifts facilitating growth and empowerment.

Initiation Cycles

Our first step in your session is to look at the basic elements of the chart or Your Living Blueprint. The next step is to explore the gifts and challenges followed by tuning into the current Initiation Cycles.

These Initiation Cycles are a natural supportive process when we consciously participate with them. This means knowing what cycles you are experiencing and how to work with them is the best way to experience the maximum benefits available to you.

There are times in every person’s life when all the doors are seemingly closed, and forward progressive movement is not happening easily if it is happening at all. During this time there are far better things to do than continue to force specific 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.

Some cycles are totally confusing and the more you try to know the less you know. This is the best time to let go of the need to know -give yourself permission to not know or feel you have to know what is next. Conversely, there are cycles when it is time for to be clear, focused and taking action.

There are also rare times when you may be in a free space - when you are 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

Knowing the Initiation cycles you are in is liberating. It helps you understand what Time it is for you. Knowledge of the precise astrological phase of the cycle gives you specific times when you can work with the cycle in a ceremonial way. These dates do not necessarily indicate some life changing event is going to happen – though sometimes they do happen - especially when you work with these cycles ceremonially aligning your intent with the intent of the cycle.

Knowing these Timings gives 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 also useful when in relationship to others. Stable relationships may encounter challenges when one or both partners move into a new cycle. The person going through one of these cycles is no longer the same and that affects the relationship. Knowing about these cycles and how to engage them can help each person in the relationship to transform into something even more wonderful.

Relationship Comparisons

Relationship comparisons are another important area to look at and often are done in follow up sessions due to time constraints in a first-time session. If relationship is the biggest question in your life then 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. We will explore what/who you are 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 the relationship intent. This is 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 at least 6 main paths of relationship. Each is valid and helpful to understand. 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 a divine union between the magical feminine (if you are a man) or the magical masculine (if you are a woman), meaning you feel fulfilled with or without a partner. Said another way, a healthy inner sacred marriage is when you feel complete, autonomous, and sovereign and the natal chart helps you understand your relationship intent.

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

How can we truly live in freedom unless we KNOW all the possibilities for human expression? Perhaps you have your own distinct color or life purpose expression - say turquoise blue. Perhaps you were born into a family that only saw red and white. It is likely you were not seen for who you really are.

Maybe you felt ignored? You didn't receive validation or feedback for your unique color and how you were doing expressing that color or life intent. Or perhaps you were born into a family or culture that punished you for being a different color even though it is the color you are here to legitimately express. It's not your fault and it's not the fault of those who can't see you for who you really are. It is up to you to find your true expression.

Exploring your natal chart provides clues about why you incarnated and how to align with that.

Magic happens when three things are in alignment.

One, it is the right timing. Two, we have done our personal healing work. Three, our desire is in alignment with our soul's intent. The greatest, most fulfilling, magic happens when we are genuinely expressing our true essence. If these three things are present, life is magical. If any one of those three things is not available, then at best we must be patient while expanding our self-awareness.

The Turning of the Wheel of time

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 meaning this started in 1926 and goes to 2070. At the end of a major cycle, everything speeds up and is recapitulated with the origination point nearly 26,000 years in the past.

This means all 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 our original life dreams are. This is also because, we are also dreaming the NEW dream, planting the new seeds of the next 26,000 year cycle. We are the transition team and whether we are aware of it 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 many of the principles of traditional astrology, either don't work or are irrelevant, often representing perspectives that no longer useful to understanding why we are here at this time. It is more important than ever to know our soul's original intent so we can make more conscious choices (including deep personal healing) designed to support the fulfilment of why we are here.

Equally important is engaging our personal and collective astrological timings with as much awareness as possible, so we are consciously cooperating 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.

Enlivened by the soul-to-soul encounter, the symbols and myths, along with the archetypes of the Gods and Goddesses come alive in our awareness. They are cellularly and consciously activated, and this assists you on your journey of self-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 these stories are evolving and seeking new expression through each of us. We are the living expression of these evolving archetypes! Alchemical Astrology supports this process of discovery by providing greater understanding and awareness that empowers us to creatively find fun and fulfilling ways to live our divine destiny.

And so it IS!

***The term Mystery School** in this context 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 is also based on 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 mysteries schools are one way to understand that co-creative process.



Medicine Wheel of the Soul to Fill In

