



# Featured Book Summary & Review

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## ***Healing the Soul – Pluto, Uranus and the Lunar Nodes***

Mark Jones

(Portland, OR; Raven Dreams Press, 2011)

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Mark Jones's *Healing the Soul* takes us on a deep dive to enrich our understanding of the evolutionary journey of the soul. The intent is laid out in the first sentence, where we are introduced to the notion that *'all 12 signs of the Zodiac represent archetypes that are symbolic of the complete range of experience of human consciousness'*. We quickly become immersed in the idea, or feeling, of our connection to the Cosmos and something much greater than our individual selves. Establishing a link between one's place in the Universe and the power of the birth chart, Jones suggests that the horoscope is a tool for understanding *the 'reality of the individual as experienced on both a conscious and unconscious level.'* The entry point, or doorway, to exploring what this represents for each of us is an examination of Pluto, Uranus, and the nodal axis of the Moon. With the promise of potential to reveal the individual's inner-most concerns within the context of lived experience, one is enticed to read on.

As a psychosynthesis therapist and counseling astrologer, Jones's many years of experience has developed his deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with making a connection to the deep self, which he describes as the *'true nature of psyche or soul.'* From an evolutionary point of view, he considers the soul *'through the lens of Pluto, in all its incarnational history, with its stored potential and wounding [...] with absolute honesty, necessity and intensity.'* Here, he introduces the idea that *'intensity is of central importance: the innermost psyche measures prior experience by impact not by duration.'* This is one of the most powerful concepts put forward for considering the material throughout the book.

As the title suggests, Pluto, Uranus, and the Nodes of the Moon are the central figures in the material. And, while Jones' evolutionary astrological foundation is grounded in the work of Jeffery Wolf Green, he has re-examined the main concepts and presented them in a way which is more easily understandable and immediately impactful. However, this is not just 'Green re-stated' but, rather, a continuation and further development of the work. Through the four main sections of the book, Jones provides ideas and explanations which are clear and thought-provoking. He incorporates both astrological and therapeutic perspective which is not beyond the realm of understanding for the student, nor lacking in depth for the more seasoned practitioner.

The 'Pluto Complex,' discussed in Chapter One, sets the stage for an evolutionary assessment of a chart. Jones quickly establishes that the *'Pluto placement of any given chart provides the baseline understanding – the context – for the entire birth chart.'* He tells us that *'Pluto relates to each soul's unconscious security needs and the issues held within [and] through Pluto, we become aware of the central evolutionary concerns stemming from deep within the soul.'* The 'complex' is, of course, more

complicated than these few sentences describe, but the topic is well worth the read and sets the stage for focused contemplation as the subsequent pages consider the expression of Pluto through each archetype.

In the second chapter, the role of the Moon's Nodes is described as a representation of the *'evolutionary potential of the ego.'* The relationship of the Nodes to Pluto becomes quickly apparent and, specifically, when contemplated together, they allow us to understand the journey of the soul. Leading up to the archetypal examination of the Nodes, we are provided with a brief introduction to some key concepts offering the potential for some interesting backstory from which to consider our own Nodal placements. The concepts of Karma and Reincarnation, Free Will, Pre- and Peri-Natal Experiences, and the Five Elements, provide the foundation from which to contemplate your own unique lived experience. There is an interesting Case Study which follows, synthesizing the material covered including technicalities such as 'skipped steps,' orbs, planets square the Nodes, and other considerations outlined under 'Fine Tuning the Details.'

Chapter 3 introduces us to Uranus and some of the psychology around trauma. This is the most complex section of the book; however, additional case Studies serve to illustrate why Uranus is a critical consideration in astrological soul work. In modern astrology, some key concepts related to Uranus include liberation and breaking free. Jones ably discusses why Uranus is linked to trauma, though he is careful to put this into context and summarizes the *'interconnection of Trauma, Healing, and Liberation,'* before walking us through some of the meanings of Uranus in each of the signs and houses.

The last section of the book, Chapter 4, offers a step-by-step method to put everything together. Each of the seven steps outlined are interwoven with references to a real-life case study, illustrating the process and the value of this approach. Jones reminds us of both the responsibility and the privilege that we, as astrologers, have when consulting with a client. The people we serve are as unique as the stars in the Universe. It is important to note that not every client we serve will want, or need, to go as deep as this material allows. As Jones suggests, *'we cannot take away people's pain [but we can help them] orientate to why they felt pain, and in exploring those origins encourage an understanding that may lead away from suffering.'*

In reading this book, one cannot help but be reminded of the path which originally led to the study of Astrology. Whether your perspective is evolutionary, modern, traditional, or another branch of astrology, the meaning and depth contained within the pages is profound. Professionally written and organized, *Healing the Soul* provides a unique blend of astrology and psychological perspective. You may find that you revisit the book more than once to fully grasp the layers of meaning it has the potential to reveal. This is not a 'light read' but it is accessible regardless of your level of astrological experience.