



Pandora's Box

Facing the Shadow of the 8th House

Martin Sebastian Moritz

(Swanage, England: The Wessex Astrologer, 2021)

Martin Sebastian Moritz shares that he '...wanted to write this book to dig up as many aspects about this fascinating place in the chart as possible, in order to offer greater clarity.' From my perspective he successfully hit the mark!

He begins by providing background and depth about the 8th house, setting the stage for what is to follow. For example, in the Introduction of *Pandora's Box*, a section entitled 'Looking behind the mirror: The 2nd house', contains what might be the most useful description of 8th and 2nd house polarity that I have come across. Perhaps this is a function of the author's skill in writing clearly about the very complex, and often daunting, 8th house and all it represents. The introduction alone is worth picking up the book!

Not surprisingly, a book on the 8th house has the potential to stir up all manner of issues and emotions. Personally speaking, I won't say issues that have been forgotten or buried, because the chapter '*Gateway to Another World*' was in many ways validating. Here, I found a precise description of my own contemplations, and experience, as I continue to live with the aftermath of losing a loved one. Moritz ponders the notion of our own questions about 'what happens after death' together with some perspective on how an individual's life experience may be influenced as a result of 'loss and mourning'.

Through each section of the book, there are a variety of interesting chart examples, accompanied by revelatory detail about the people and stories represented. Some are a bit dark, and potentially disturbing, but Moritz handles these with skill and sensitivity. One cannot help but reflect on the idea that 'the unconscious forces of the 8th house shape our lives.' While some examples could be considered repellent, the significance of what might be revealed and healed by exploring 8th house matters is well worth considering.

So many of us shy away from issues within this scary 8th house domain, whether from fear, discomfort, or something else. However, the choice of '*Pandora's Box*' as the title for this book is incredibly appropriate. If we draw elements of the myth into the current reality of our environment (personal and collective), we might consider that Pandora opening the lid on what was 'forbidden' suggests that the 'evil' unleashed cannot be buried or hidden, it must be faced. In reading Martin Sebastian Moritz's book, I am struck by the notion of 'hope'...the item which remained at the bottom of Pandora's Box. *And*, isn't hope something we could all use a little more of? [JL]