



# Chiron and the Healing Journey

Melanie Reinhart

(London, UK: Arkana Books, 1989)

---

Before one begins to really dig into this book, I highly recommend reading the 'Introduction', even if that is not your usual approach. Perhaps more than other Astrology book I have read over the past few years, the introduction not only sets the stage for the actual content, but it provides a feeling for the tone and texture of the author's perspective. The book was published only 10 years after Chiron's discovery and Melanie Reinhart was one of the pioneers researching this astral body, initially considered an asteroid and then a planetoid. Reinhart, for the purpose of this book, has chosen to refer to it using the word 'planet' which we are reminded is derived from the Greek for 'wanderer'... an appropriate label considering the characterizations associated with it.

It is the recent discovery of Chiron that most stuck with me as I read through the first 6 pages, and beyond. Unlike the familiar phrasing and reiteration of information we are generally faced with when reading about planets which have been discussed and contemplated for generations, there was a freshness and an almost deliberately detailed and conservative approach to the text. It seemed as though Reinhart was going for clarity to ensure we had a meaningful foundation from which to consider Chiron and all the implications as we began to learn and experience more about what this Centaur represents. Here we are, just over 45 years since Chiron arrived in our consciousness, and I'm not sure we are that much further along in truly understanding, or appreciating, its significance. This fact alone causes me to regard, as many do, the importance of Reinhart's research and resulting contribution in bringing Chiron and his many facets to light. The individual journey is of prime significance, as we learn in the book, and so too is our continued exploration of the relevance and possibilities for our own lives.

A substantial portion of the book is dedicated to the mythology of Chiron and the related themes, which are presented with some degree of depth, important in underpinning our understanding of the 'planet'. Many of us first think of 'Wounded Healer' when we consider Chiron, but Reinhart certainly makes the case that he is so much more than that.

The balance of the book goes into Chiron's placement in the horoscope by sign, house, and aspect, while also considering the question of rulership, which still has no definitive answer. One of the most intriguing sections from my perspective relates to *The Chiron Cycle* (the transits of Chiron), which is interesting to keep in mind when reading Chapter 11, '*Spirit of the Age*'. As Reinhart suggests, 'we both create and are created by the times we live in' though the Chiron themes 'describe a kind of Zeitgeist'...which characterizes the collective and psycho-historical context in which we live'.<sup>1</sup> To illustrate this point, she explores some of the Chiron themes in relation to specific trends and events, as well as some individuals 'whose destiny expresses Chiron's mythic themes in a manner larger than their own personal lives.'<sup>2</sup> Interesting reading to be sure.

In summary, *Chiron and the Healing Journey* is an important work and, I believe, essential to our understanding of Chiron's significance in our own charts. [JL]

---

<sup>1</sup> Reinhart, *Chiron and the Healing Journey*, p.303.

<sup>2</sup> Reinhart, *Chiron and the Healing Journey*, p.303.