

2013 The Sacred Warrior ~ Creating and Dreaming the Future

We are beyond 2012 now yet still in transitional times. There is increased recognition that we are all responsible for continuing to evolve a holistic consciousness and co-create a new world. In order to do this we need to release the past, embrace the unknown and move freely in the present and into the future. This we felt to fit with the determined and vigilant Sacred Warrior. Eris/Xena, the new tenth “planet”, embodies this archetype.

Like the world around us, Astrology is changing because of new astronomical discoveries and ways of naming these discoveries. Going back a bit, Ceres, the first and largest asteroid, was discovered in 1801 giving us a new astrological goddess archetype. This coincided with a huge wave of feminism, women seeking independence and personal empowerment. The next three asteroids discovered – Pallas Athene, Vesta and Juno – were all named after Greek goddesses. By the 1980’s these four goddess archetypes gained astrological recognition with the publishing of Demetra George’s enlightening book “Asteroid Goddesses”. The asteroid belt, located between Mars and Jupiter, was subsequently found to contain thousands of small and larger rocks.

The next major discovery was Chiron in 1977, later found to belong to another belt of objects orbiting between Saturn and Uranus. These were named the Centaurs and are thought to have migrated in from a further out belt of icy objects, known as the Kuiper Belt, in the region of Pluto. A newly discovered tenth planet 4% larger than Pluto made the headlines in 2005. This planet was initially named Xena, then Eris by the International Astronomical Union. Eris is the Greek goddess of strife, and there certainly was a great deal of strife in the IAU that resulted from Eris’ discovery. In a giant reclassification Pluto was demoted to a dwarf planet. Eris and the goddess asteroid Ceres are also classified as dwarf planets.

Since then other large Kuiper belt discoveries have been named dwarf planets, including Sedna after an Inuit goddess, and Haumea after a Hawaiian goddess – we will talk more about them and their guiding significance for the New Era in the 2014 Moon calendar. What is interesting to note now is that although we still have a male, classical Greek predominance in the naming of planetary bodies, more and more female and non Greek characters are appearing. Xena is a modern archetype, whose story is placed loosely in a Greek mythological setting. This connects her to the end of the Age of Aries, the beginnings of the Piscean, and now, the Aquarian Age. This fits with the End of the Mayan Calendar and the Shift of the Ages predicted by so many world mythologies.

For our 2013 theme we have chosen to focus on Eris/Xena, who was discovered just inside the 8 year Venus Transit period highlighting a resurgence of the Divine Feminine. Xena/Eris is classified as a transneptunian planet orbiting the Sun just beyond the Kuiper Belt. Her orbit is wider than the ecliptic, the path that the other planets of our solar system travel on. So this maverick goddess follows her own offbeat eccentric path moving into close proximity with the Sun and then out to the far reaches of the Kuiper Belt. Astronomically she is in the constellation of Cetus the Whale. Astrologically she is in the tropical Zodiac sign of Aries. Eris/Xena’s orbit is 557 years long, so if we are thinking about her astrological significance, primarily she describes global consciousness, long periods of time and eras of social change. Because of her extremely elliptical orbit, she can be in a zodiac sign for between 15 and 123 years. Xena/Eris is in Aries from February 1927 to July 2044.

Our theme of the Sacred Warrior – Dreaming and Creating the Future is based on our research into the meaning of Xena and a belief that if we are to continue creating a new human society on Earth we all need to be Sacred Warriors. Like old age, co-creating a New World is not for the faint hearted. We need to be visionaries and vigilant spiritual activists, constantly renewing our commitment to change our own individual and collective consciousness and our societal, political and spiritual paradigms.

Sacred Warrior Xena through the Zodiac Signs

Eris/Xena in Aries is in **Aries'** natural 1st house, igniting direct expression of the Sacred Warrior. Your inner warrior gives you the physical experience of standing tall and brave in your individual integrity. Be willing to act as a leader, pioneering new initiatives or projects. Embracing the sacred warrior within makes it easier to feel compassionate and act for the good of the whole collective.

the true self is naturally connected

Xena/Eris in Aries is in **Taurus'** 12th house, where the Sacred Warrior provides faith and strength through intuition and celestial guidance. Your staunch spiritual warrior gifts you with the instinctual courage to face and befriend your personal demons. Acting with compassion in difficult or challenging circumstances may mean healing self and others, working therapeutically with the terminally ill or trauma victims.

tuning in to celestial wisdom

Eris/Xena in Aries is in **Gemini's** 11th house, where the Sacred Warrior is kept busy networking in group situations, developing and supporting healthy honest ways of communicating and co-operating. Gemini's inner revolutionary activates your most radical maverick ways of thinking. You may be interested in participatory democracy.

turning corporations into cooperations

Xena/Eris in Aries is in **Cancer's** 10th house, where the Sacred Warrior directs the Crab towards goal setting and finding a path. Setting out on a new path demands giving structure to ideas and ideals. Cancer's spiritual warrior activates your fierce mothering instincts. You may be attracted to groups co-creating caring economic systems that balance power and benefit everyone.

food, water and shelter for all

Eris/Xena in Aries is in **Leo's** 9th house, where the Sacred Warrior inspires truth telling and the creation of new human myths to guide us. Xena challenges Leo's fixed world views by introducing new paradigms. Your inner warrior's strength and determination helps you fearlessly accept diversity and break free from prejudices. Leo might become involved in changing education and teaching methods – the ways in which we learn what we learn.

brain storming a new world

Xena/Eris in Aries is in **Virgo's** 8th house, where the Sacred Warrior transforms Virgo's attitudes about money, sex and death. Virgos' feisty spiritual warrior within may confront other weighty issues such as ageism, the structures of power over, gender issues, minority groups, sharing resources and redistributing wealth.

getting to the guts of power

Eris/Xena in Aries is in **Libra's** natural 7th house, where the Sacred Warrior is a champion for equality in relationships and working in partnership with the Cosmos and Universal

Laws. Libra's spiritual activist within is drawn towards using the revolutionary power of art and music. She emphasizes gratitude, valuing and preserving the harmony and beauty of Nature.

playing counterpoint rhythms

Xena/Eris in Aries is in **Scorpio's** 6th house, where the Sacred Warrior is deeply motivated to eliminate polluting chemicals and to use natural healing methods clear ourselves, the earth and the environment. Scorpio's inner warrior is an ecological evangelist for sharing the earth with other species, respecting our interdependence with other forms of life. Your areas of concern may also include climate change, working conditions, equal pay and fair trade agreements.

purge and purify

Eris/Xena in Aries is in **Sagittarius'** 5th house, where the Sacred Warrior is highly creative playing with new paradigm possibilities in the fields of education, teaching and making learning more fun. Sagittarius' inner spiritual warrior closes the gaps between work and leisure. You could be called towards non-violent political theatre, or a heart-centered revolution of the entertainment industry aimed at children.

juggling new paradigms

Xena/Eris in Aries is in **Capricorn's** 4th house, activating the Sacred Warrior as a domestic goddess, reassigning stereotyped roles at home. Capricorn's inner warrior supports the belief that women and men can do anything whether it's a building project or nurturing children. Your spiritual goals could include redistribution of power and social standing not only at home but at work.

an end to dominance dynamics

Eris/Xena in Aries is in **Aquarius'** 3rd house, where the Sacred Warrior is concerned with freedom and the ongoing development of new era egalitarian media and communications. The friendly Aquarian warrior is likely to use cutting edge technology to listen to others, sharing information between groups and taking community to another level of consensus decision making.

we will not be owned

Xena/Eris in Aries is in **Pisces'** 2nd house, where the Sacred Warrior encourages valuing self and others, giving and receiving validation, having compassion for each unique being, perceiving how weaknesses can be developed as strengths. Pisces spiritual warrior may get involved in ensuring basic security needs like food, clean water, clothing and shelter are freely available for all.

people not profit

We are thinking of the little slogans at the end of each sign as banners or pennants for the sacred warrior's inspiration in that sign. We may also explore Pallas Athene, another Sacred Warrior archetype in Aries January – March 2013, and Mars (brother to Eris), direct all year and in Aries March/April. We will look at the effect of these planetary bodies on Eris and on the individual signs. Sacred Warriors are to do with activating our essential selves (Uranus in Aries since 2010) may be included.

Here are some Goddesses, Heroines and Women Warriors from other cultures worldwide we have associated with each of the signs:

Aries

MORRIGAN, supreme ancient Triple goddess of Ireland associated with death, war and chaos, also linked in balance to life/rebirth, sexuality/fertility, prophecy and social order. Often the Goddess in her guise of a crow or raven, appeared on battle fields causing soldiers to throw down their weapons and flee. The Morrigan's shape-changing, idiosyncratic and ambiguous nature seems to point to a desire to shake humans, especially the warring ones, out of their rigid beliefs and antagonisms into a holistic understanding of both the impermanence and the Oneness of Life.

AELLA, leader of a women's resistance against the Greek invasion of the Amazons

Taurus

GREEN TARA is the fierce dynamic form of Tara who has great strength and protective powers, warding off evil and shielding from spiritual harm. She is the all embracing mother who takes us in her arms in times of crisis, helping us to handle bad news or stressful situations.

CONCORDIA, a 4th Century BC Roman goddess of peace, depicted as a matron holding a cornucopia in one hand and an olive branch in the other. The word concord comes from her name, her feast day is April 30

Gemini

DJIGONASEE, a heroine of the Ontario Hurons served the cause of peace by conveying messages and treaties among the indigenous Six Nations

VAJRAVARAKI, name means "wanderer of the air". She was said in Tibet to incarnate herself regularly as a Buddhist abbess to protect the nuns under her care with her magical powers and spells of metamorphosis.

Cancer

ANAHITA, Persian/Babylonian mother/warrior goddess, protective nurturer and healer who drove through the world in a chariot drawn by four white horses signifying wind, rain, clouds and hail. The "golden mother" appeared wrapped in a gold embroidered cloak with square gold earrings and a jewelled diadem.

TRUNG-TAC, rain goddesses of the Vietnamese Tonkin people. They were originally 1st century warrior women who defeated a tyrannical Chinese governor and invasion.

Leo

DURGA, is a Hindu goddess and just warrior purging the world of evil. Her name means invincible and she is the embodiment of creative feminine power, self sufficient, fiercely compassionate, fearless and patient, never losing her sense of humour in spiritual battles of epic proportion. She has 18 arms, rides a tiger or a lion, carries weapons and a lotus flower, maintaining a meditative smile and practicing mudras or symbolic hand gestures.

Virgo

MAMI, a Sumerian creation goddess who became a warrior goddess protecting the earth by demanding that a corner of every field be left wild in her honour

PELE and PRINCESS RUTH KEELIKOLANI When Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano erupted in 1880 princess Keelikolani courageously walked up to the edge of the lava flow threatening the city of Hilo reciting the ancient chants of the priestesses of Pele and offering libations of brandy in memory of the sacred awa drink. The eruptions stopped the next day without the lava touching the city.

Libra

ALA, a Nigerian goddess, lawgiver and guardian of morality, worshipped to the present day by the Igbo tribe

THEMIS, a shape-changing goddess with a mission to create social cohesion. Encouraged group dancing for women. Carried scales and a cornucopia.

Scorpio

The **ERINYES**, are three **FURIES** from the pre-Hellenic matriarchal world who defended the laws of kinship and mother right, dispensing justice and revenge. “In Greek mythology, the Fates, the Furies, the Hesperides, Nemesis and sometimes Hekate were all said to be the daughters of **NYX**, Mother Night, envisioned as a great black winged spirit who laid a silver egg (the moon) in the gigantic lap of darkness. In her triple aspect, Nyx displayed herself as Night, Order and Justice. **NEMESIS** symbolizes our conscience, urging us towards right action (Demetra George, “Finding Our Way through the Dark”)

Sagittarius

AUGIARM, Mongolian princess from Marco Polo’s time who challenged her suitors to wrestling matches. She won over 10,000 horses and may never have married Hippo, a great Amazon warrior whose name means horse, inaugurated a shrine to Artemis at Ephesus, performing shield and stamping dances in her honour

Capricorn

DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD – Jewish heroines who fought for the equal rights of women in marriage and land ownership in the time of Moses.

THORGEUN – Icelandic warrior goddess who protected her people, using her powers over the forces of nature to provide for their happiness

Aquarius

MARCIA PROBA, a legendary Celtic queen of Britain who ruled in the 3rd Century BC. Her people’s law, notably fair to women, was inscribed into the Marcian Statutes, the same law in Ireland became the Brehon Laws, which provided legal equity for ancient Irish women.

MARIANA DE PINEDA Y MINOZ (1804-1831), Spanish national heroine who has been immortalized in books and an opera. An activist for liberal causes she was arrested and accused of conspiracy for having a flag embroidered with the slogan “Equality, Freedom and Law”. Publicly executed by garrote when she refused to betray her accomplices.

Pisces

OYA, a warrior storm goddess who also rules fire, is a patron of female leadership. West African in origin, Oya emigrated to Central and South America changing form to suit her new surroundings. A guardian of the underworld she is often depicted holding a flame or dancing with her arms outstretched, to hold off the ghosts that only she can control.

HINA, in one of her many forms was a warrior goddess on the Island of Women, she renewed her agelessness by going surfing!

REFERENCES:

Finding Our Center, Heather M Ensworth, PhD 2009

Ephemeris of the Outer Solar System Dwarf Planets, Philip Sedgwick 2008

Eris Notebook: Dancing with Discord, Eric Francis 2010

The New Book of Goddesses and Heroines, Patricia Monaghan 1997

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_women_warriors_in_folklore

Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood – our Goddess and Heroine Heritage, Merlin Stone 1979

Celtic Goddesses, Miranda Green 1995