

# Chiron

## through the Houses



by Corrie Cooperman



**Corrie Cooperman** has been a practicing astrologer since 1991. She maintains an active astrology practice and has previously published articles in *The Mountain Astrologer*. She is certified in AstroCartoGraphy and offers a full range of astrology readings, imbued with her well-developed intuition and her knowledge of health and wellness as a Registered Nurse. Her approach to astrology has been enriched by her studies in energy medicine with Alberto Villoldo and his shamanic healing school, of which she is a graduate. She lives with her husband and three dogs in Sedona, Arizona. She can be reached at [www.corriecooperman.com](http://www.corriecooperman.com) or (928) 443-7774.

**T**he mysterious planetoid Chiron was discovered in 1977 and, in a short time, worked its way into the birth chart readings of most astrologers. Referred to as the "Wounded Healer" by Barbara Hand Clow,<sup>1</sup> Chiron is rich with psychological insight. In Greek mythology, the centaur Chiron was a gifted healer, psychic, and astrologer. But he also had to endure a lifelong wound from a spear, which healed only when he gave up his immortality and became humanlike. Chiron speaks to the nature of one's core wounding and subsequently derived gifts, thus its interpretation becomes very poignant and meaningful for clients.

Carl Jung, the Swiss-born founder of Jungian depth psychoanalytic therapy, was first credited with using the expression "Wounded Healer Archetype" in 1955.<sup>2</sup> The term refers to the premise that all humans undergo a deep challenge in their youth, which becomes their core wounding. The challenges can arise from such divergent experiences as being born in a war zone, having a childhood illness, losing a parent while young, having an abusive or alcoholic parent, or having a demeaning teacher. As we all know, the possibilities are vast.

Yet, there is great beauty in the concept of the Wounded Healer Archetype. It says that we all have wounds from our formative years, but as we gain self-awareness and maturity, we release or transcend the psychological and energetic imprints from that experience and, equally important,

retain and use the strengths it creates. Those gifts can take many forms, such as exquisite intuition, compassion, wisdom, and perseverance. The Wounded Healer Archetype dictates that these gifts not lie dormant but be employed to help others in their struggles — a family member, friend, colleague, or client.

Chiron's house position determines the arena in which the core wounding will occur and reveals the accompanying strengths and gifts. The following interpretations of Chiron and how it operates in each house have been gleaned from many years of analyzing Chiron and fine-tuning my understanding of its deeper meaning through my clients' experiences. In this article, I will be addressing the primary manifestations of Chiron in each house, with the understanding that there are other, less common ways that Chiron can touch one's life.

### Chiron in the 1st House

The 1st house asks "Who am I?" and describes our essence and identity. It is perhaps the most challenging position for Chiron, because the core wounding revolves around the question: Do I have the right to exist? Invariably, clients who have Chiron in the 1st house resonate with the experience of feeling alienated from the world in which they were born.

Sometimes their feeling of not belonging originates from being the product of an unwanted pregnancy or being the parent's unwanted gender. It can also emanate from

being uniquely different from the birth family in personality, values, and even sophistication, such as the highly sensitive child born into a rough-and-tumble family. Sometimes, at its worst, Chiron in this pivotal position produces the profound disillusionment that can come from having highly unaccepting and critical parents.

Occasionally, the alienation occurs through no fault of the family but from the person's own unaccountable and existential questioning of belonging. I am reminded of one client with Chiron in this potent position who also had a prominent Neptune and felt as though he belonged in some other society or even a different planet, a more peaceful place where people always treated each other intelligently, with sensitivity and love.

Obviously, regardless of the cause, such a difficult and embedded sense of not belonging creates quite the challenge to achieving happiness. The goal of Chiron is not to wound but to grow gifts that can help others. As those people who have Chiron in their 1st house do self-work and mature, they come to embrace the human experience and slowly but surely gain a sense of "rightness" about being who they are. Hard-earned, unbending self-acceptance is the treasured gift gained from this core wound.

In Chiron's world, the accrued gift is meant to be used to help others. People with Chiron in the 1st house often go into service careers that involve the healing arts, counseling, coaching, and psychotherapy.

### **Chiron in the 2nd House**

The 2nd house addresses one's resources, both financial assets and skill sets. On a deeper level, the 2nd house also speaks to a person's self-worth and self-esteem. One might think that having Chiron in this house would imply being born into a poverty-stricken household, but I have found that rarely to be the case — perhaps supporting the research on happiness, which has determined that poverty and wealth are not factors connected to being happy.<sup>3</sup>

Instead, what has been almost universally true is that the person with a 2nd-house Chiron is born into a home

## ***Chiron's house position determines the arena in which the core wounding will occur and reveals the accompanying strengths and gifts.***

that uses money as a tool for manipulation. Thus, the core wounding revolves around the issue of having to fulfill the family's demands in order to have access to the things money can buy. One of my clients was born into a family of above-average means but had to follow in his dad's footsteps and major in law in order to be sent to his own college of choice. His chart showed huge creative talents that were expressed later in life, after he abandoned the unsatisfying field of law.

Trust becomes a major issue with Chiron in the 2nd house. One has to overcome the fear that there is an ulterior motive behind people's kindness. The very ability to accept support, mentoring, and even financial help can be impaired until one comes to grips with the core issue of trust. The main gift available, as this core wounding is released, is the strong confidence that a person can manifest his or her hopes and dreams, with or without the help of others. A priceless gift!

Low self-esteem can also be a core wounding with Chiron in this house, somewhat mirroring the 1st-house issue of self-acceptance. But it is less commonly represented this way. The gift, as one overcomes the effects of being born into an unsupportive environment, is to realize the beauty and uniqueness of one's being.

Gifts achieved from this house placement are frequently used to help others — whether they be family, friends, or work associates — who are struggling with the issues of manipulation and low self-esteem.

### **Chiron in the 3rd House**

The 3rd house asks the question "How do I express myself?" When

Chiron resides in this house, some significant blockage of a child's ability to communicate occurs. This blockage is different from having an afflicted Mercury in the birth chart, where the difficulty with communication usually stems from an internal source. When Chiron is in the 3rd, it is likely to be the parents who suppress the child's verbal expression. Either they cannot handle the normal "child chatter" and the endless "why?" of a curious child, or they have strong opinions about when and what a child should say. The old motto "better seen than heard" applies here. The child thus becomes quiet, too scared to speak or to speak out.

A less-intense version of this wounding occurs when the child is allowed to communicate only as long as the subject matter has no emotional content. Clients have described this situation as shaping a communication style that can be quite verbose, but with no depth. Obviously, this imposed limitation can pose a hardship in forming close relationships until this wounding is overcome.

This is not an easy house placement for Chiron. The challenge is to develop bravery with communication as the child matures and becomes an adult. This can take time, but eventually confidence builds with each successful sharing of thoughts and opinions. Clients talk about the high level of consciousness this process takes, to finally be able to speak one's truth.

The ultimate gift Chiron has in mind for the 3rd-house placement is the development of an unshakable confidence in speaking one's mind when needed and communicating with honesty and integrity. People who have succeeded in transcending this wound put a high value on communication and are sensitive to those who are blocked in this area. They often become great teachers, whether by training or by intention alone, and can encourage their children, friends, and students to achieve more open communication.

### **Chiron in the 4th House**

Our parents reside in the 4th house. When Chiron lands here, its effect can be profound. You might think that having Chiron in this house would signal



# Chiron

the presence of an unusually controlling or even abusive parent, but that situation is more associated with Saturn or Pluto, respectively, occupying the 4th. I have found that clients who have Chiron in this house almost invariably have a parent who is quite unavailable emotionally. This may be because the parent has an emotionally cold personality or is disinterested and uninvolved in parenting. In some cases, the parent may have a serious alcohol problem, which makes for aloofness, perhaps mixed with absence.

Essentially, the 4th-house Chiron child has just one functioning parent and carries a mixture of sadness, anger, and resentment about this reality. The child unrealistically perceives the remote and/or addicted parent as having complete emotional control and coldly choosing to be unavailable. Thus, the issue of being unloved becomes the core wound. Depending on the sex of the dysfunctional parent, this core wound, until personally healed through self-work, usually produces in the adult a distrust of the implicated gender. There can also be a tendency to re-enact the early wounding by choosing partners who are aloof and unloving, which compounds the problem.

People with this core wound frequently seek out therapy to heal. The rewards of working through this wound are huge. The gift that emerges is the deep understanding that happiness is not based on whether others love you: It is based on self-love. Compassion is a secondary gift that arises when a person begins to realize that the aloof parent was also a product of some early wounding.

Because the 4th is a water house, and the wounding is so deeply embedded, people with Chiron in this house often end up with a strong interest in the field of psychology. Whether or not they choose to become a professional therapist, there is a lifelong talent and interest in helping others recover from having a difficult family of origin.

## Chiron in the 5th House

Chiron in the 5th house affects creative expression. Over and over again, I have seen clients with Chiron in the 5th have their creative talents ridiculed or seriously suppressed as a child. This takes place mostly in the home environment, rather than school. Sometimes, the talented child has parents who do not value the arts. Some parents may even have a negative perception of the artistic endeavor and consider it a waste of time and a deterrent to making money. Other times, the home environment simply does not foster — and may even suppress — the natural curiosity of the child, which dampens creative development of all kinds.

We have all seen movies that revolve around these themes: the highly creative child and the disapproving parent. But it is not just artistic expression that is represented in the 5th house. It is creativity in all its expressions — yes, dance, theater, music, and film but, just as importantly, creative thinking that leads to innovations in all fields, including science.

People with Chiron in this house know that something important is missing in their lives but do not necessarily realize that creative repression is the reason. They may just know that passion is lacking.

The personal work required with Chiron in this house is to discover one's passion, a needed ingredient closely tied to creativity. Before this issue was resolved, one client described life as living in black and white, yet once the creative process was tapped, like living in color. Drab vs. multichromatic. Help may come in the form of a significant teacher who reaches out to the maturing child or young adult and opens the door to creative exploration. Or it may arrive through exposure to other creative people.

The precious gift gleaned from this wound is the presence of passion. The acquired passion then becomes a moving force in one's life and fosters creative expression in all dimensions, at work and in play. People with Chiron in this house are sensitive to others whose creativity is blocked. They make great teachers and are always encouraging others to find the spark that ignites their passion.

## Chiron in the 6th House

The 6th house is all about finding balance in our life through our lifestyle choices — balance between work, play, and sleep, between social life and personal time, as well as balance in what we eat and drink. That is why this house is associated with health, especially the health we acquire as a result of our habits, rather than our genetic makeup. The parents set the tone and determine the lifestyle of the child.

People with Chiron in the 6th house invariably have had a significant disruption in their domestic life in their formative years. Children with a 6th-house Chiron commonly relocate often, through having parents whose careers demand frequent moves. This means a change of schools, friends, possibly culture, and sometimes even language, if the move is to a foreign country. Many children handle frequent moves well, but the children with a 6th-house Chiron do not. They are slow to accommodate to significant change and feel as though their world has been disassembled. There is an accompanying sense of loss and sadness about leaving their stable, treasured environment again and again.

Another possibility of having Chiron in the 6th is being raised in a very chaotic environment, where there is no rhythm to the normal work, eat, and sleep patterns of the parent's life. There is excessive and unpredictable chaos that the child must defend against.

The wounding in both these situations is a fear of change and a poor adaptation to it. There is a sense of being on edge, waiting for the rug to be pulled out from underneath and losing one's footing. A certain rigidity of personality can form because of the underlying fear of change.

The beautiful gift of healing this core wounding is achieving a sense of balance, regardless of the nature of the outer environment. People with this house placement of Chiron are often drawn to the modalities of yoga, meditation, massage, and healthy food, to balance their nervous system and moderate their reaction to the chaos of the world. As a consequence, they can be attracted to the alternative health fields and almost always have a strong desire

to help others achieve inner balance and harmony.

### Chiron in the 7th House

The 7th house addresses our major committed relationships. We usually think of marital and business partners when interpreting this house, but for the child, the parents are the major relationship. Like the 4th house, which also refers to the child's parents, the core wounding of Chiron in the 7th is related to one or both parents. But the wounding here is different. It comes, not from an emotionally unavailable parent, but rather sadly from a missing parent. The common reasons for the loss are the premature death of a parent, or the parent's early departure to go off to war, or never getting to know one or both of the genetic parents, as frequently happens with adoptions. Elective single parenthood is also another situation that creates a missing parent.

Because the child has little or no time with the missing parent, the issue of being unloved by that parent is less strong than with a 4th-house Chiron.

Most of the time, the loss takes place through no faulty behavior on the part of the parent. As a result, the core wounding — which becomes primary, with Chiron in this house — is the issue of abandonment.

Abandonment is one of the more challenging human conditions to heal. It requires a real commitment on the part of the maturing adult to overcome the fear and associated destructive behavioral patterns. Clients with this 7th-house placement of Chiron have struggles with relationships. When such an individual is in relationship, the abandonment issue is activated and forces the 7th-house Chiron person to transform.

The gift of psychologically working through this difficult core wounding is the realization that a sense of wholeness is unrelated to relationship or circumstances. This becomes a powerful and very freeing achievement! Relationship then evolves into a rich enhancement of one's life rather than a needed ingredient to avoid feeling empty. Individuals who transcend this core wounding make

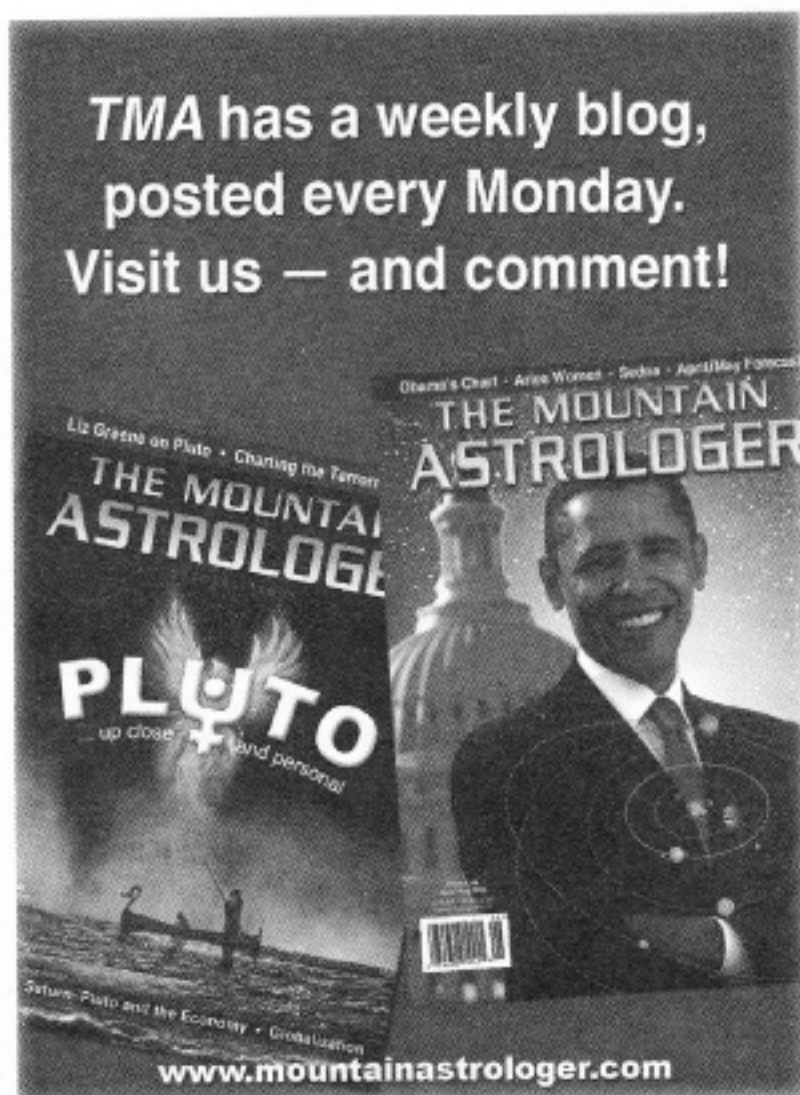
great mediators and family counselors; they have a deep understanding of the abandonment issue and can be drawn to work that helps people relate more maturely to others.

### Chiron in the 8th House

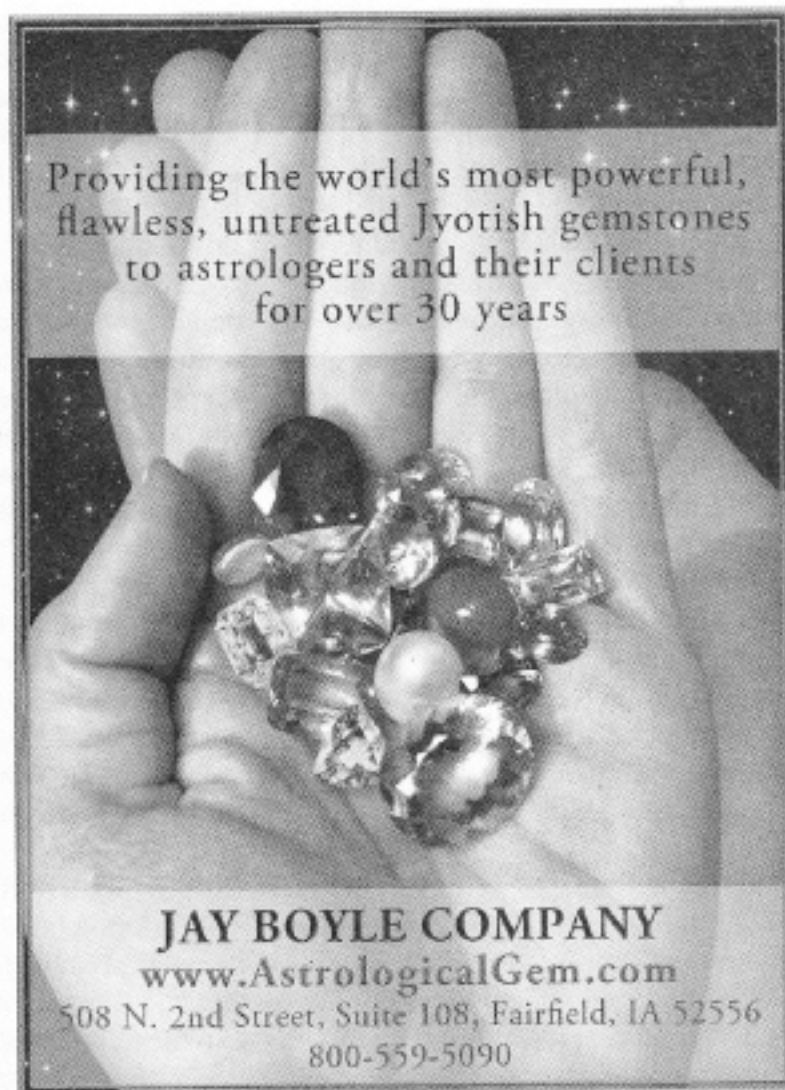
The 8th house is complex, representing many arenas of life. It begins the series of houses, above the horizon, that connect us to a broader assortment of people unrelated to our family. Over time, I have observed that mainly two of the 8th-house attributes are susceptible to Chiron's impact: intimate relationships and other people's resources. The most common core wounding that occurs is in the domain of intimacy.

Recently, I had a client with a classic example of an 8th-house Chiron. During her reading, I described this core wounding, which can limit the ability to be intimate. She was stunned, because she had not connected her early childhood difficulties with her adult struggles surrounding intimacy. She was born and raised in a vibrant urban city, but when she was six, her parents moved

**TMA has a weekly blog,  
posted every Monday.  
Visit us — and comment!**



Obama's Chart • Aries Women • Solas • April/May Forecast  
**THE MOUNTAIN  
ASTROLOGER**  
Liz Greene on Pluto • Charting the Terror  
**PLUTO**  
up close and personal  
Saturn: Pluto and the Economy • Globalization  
[www.mountainastrologer.com](http://www.mountainastrologer.com)



Providing the world's most powerful,  
flawless, untreated Jyotish gemstones  
to astrologers and their clients  
for over 30 years

**JAY BOYLE COMPANY**  
[www.AstrologicalGem.com](http://www.AstrologicalGem.com)  
508 N. 2nd Street, Suite 108, Fairfield, IA 52556  
800-559-5090



# Chiron

to a very isolated farm area. Her closest neighbor was two miles away, and that household included her least favorite classmate. Her school had a grand total of 18 children. She suffered immensely from the extreme isolation she endured during those important years. She had to overcome her limited opportunities to develop the skills required for intimacy, as do many people who have Chiron in the 8th.

The reasons for the lack of intimacy skills vary, but the work involved in transcending this limitation is equally demanding and usually entails receiving psychotherapy. The reward is a hard-earned ability to share who one is at a much deeper level and enjoy intimate relationships. People who have healed this core wound have a natural gift of drawing other people out, and can go into fields that use this valuable skill.

The 8th house also speaks about other people's financial resources, but includes receiving help from others in the form of mentorship, support, and advice. The core wounding in the 8th house may also present as a serious lack of supportive people while growing up.

Children with this house placement may have limited access to ordinarily helpful relatives. Their parents may be too preoccupied with life's demands to be supportive, and grandparents may live too far away to contribute. The wound formed is a sense that there is no help out there and one has to be totally self-reliant out of necessity.

In the healed state, this wound is transformed into the realization that support is always available, usually just for the asking. People with this house placement grow a big heart and are among the first to offer help to others in need. They can be attracted to work in nonprofit organizations and other agencies that provide direct services to less fortunate people.

## Chiron in the 9th House

As we move into the final four houses, we find core wounds that have nothing to do with one's parents or family. Thus, the core wounding in these houses tends to occur from school age

onward. The 9th house refers to higher education, so the core wounding in this house revolves primarily around the ability to learn, especially the learning needed to function well academically.

As a Western nation, we live in a society where advanced education is not only a value, it is the major key to higher earnings and class mobility. Yet, with Chiron in the 9th, the goals of achieving a college degree are frequently thwarted. A learning disability or attention deficit disorder may interfere with the ability to do well in high school. Academic achievement then becomes a struggle and a source of suffering.

Other overriding obligations may also circumvent personal educational goals. We have certainly read books and seen movies about a teenager sacrificing herself to take care of an ailing family member and abandoning her cherished educational goals. Financial issues that deny access to higher education may also be more prominent when Chiron is in the 9th house.

Regardless of the cause, personal disappointment and a sense of failure become the core wounding of this house placement of Chiron. Feelings of incompetence and inferiority can be pervasive, along with the belief that moving ahead in life is impossible. Unless this core wound is worked through and healed, regret and bitterness may override happiness.

When this core wound is addressed and the inferiority complex released, true appreciation for one's own unique intelligence and abilities emerges. People who overcome their previously perceived doomed view of their future are free to become quite creative about how they approach life. Skills, unrelated to academics, are allowed to flourish and surprise everyone. Interesting careers follow. These folks can use their treasured accomplishments to help others get ahead in life. They make great coaches, and are often drawn to encourage struggling teenagers in high school.

## Chiron in the 10th House

As astrologers, we think of the 10th house as providing significant information about career paths. It is important to remember, though, that this house also speaks to our connection to the

outer world and our community. And it is primarily this aspect of the 10th house that becomes affected during one's youth, when Chiron is placed here.

For children, the outer community comes into play when they enter school. School is the child's community and connection to the outer world. Unlike the 9th house, where struggles with education become the issue, a 10th-house Chiron creates struggles with the milieu of the school system. The school can be too coarse for a sensitive child and present some fearful situations with bullies — or too lax in expectations and structure, which can create constant anxious conditions for the young student.

I have seen this placement of Chiron cause a serious wounding in just a single school year when my client (as a child) had a particularly horrendous teacher. The predominant wound created with this situation is one of suspicion and fear of the outside world and its authority figures. Another client of mine with a 10th-house Chiron placement said that, until she reached her 40s, she was wary of participating in her hometown public functions, even though she had a keen interest in her community.

This kind of distrust and suspicion of public bodies, though some would say is healthy, often serves to isolate the person from participating in community events and can create a "loner" adaptation to the world. The documentary movie *Happy* (see Note 3) makes a good case for the presence of and involvement with community, which it claims is the biggest ingredient in achieving personal happiness. So, this core wounding should not be taken lightly.

As people with a 10th-house Chiron come to grips with their self-imposed limitations and distrust of civic and community functions, they can override their early conditioning and wholeheartedly engage in public life. These folks frequently end up fostering important community projects and receive great satisfaction from such endeavors. They may be stewards of their community and help to solve some of its problems, thus becoming Healers of Community.

## Chiron in the 11th House

The 11th house speaks to our relationship with groups and friends. For the maturing child, this house has some correlation with the 10th, since the school environment is usually the arena in which the child finds friends and joins some groups. However, the nature of the core wounding for this house is quite different. Rather than difficulty with the school's authority figures and environment, the 11th-house Chiron involves difficulties with classmates.

Over and over again, clients with an 11th-house Chiron have shared going through a rough period of seriously not fitting in with the students at their school and so finding school a miserable and isolating experience. They report sadness about that time in their life and feeling like an outcast. This core wounding may occur as a result of a child entering or being transferred to a school with an incompatible school culture. Or it may just be that the child's social skills are not very well developed, and though this is never a limitation at home, it becomes a real drawback when the child is trying to find his place within the social structure at school.

Regardless of the reason, the core wound of being rejected by one's peers leads to a sense of inadequacy and fears about functioning in a group setting. This core wound can limit career opportunities that require teamwork and may make for some very uncomfortable work situations in general, since most forms of employment involve working with one's peers.

As a person is forced — through the circumstances that life presents — to develop more grace in dealing with social situations, an acceptance of his own uniqueness emerges. Confidence in the ability to interact successfully with groups of people develops, both socially and at work. In the healed state, the sense of being an outcast disappears and is replaced with the realization that some groups of people are healthy and supportive and some are not, without any need for self-blame when coming in contact with the latter.

These people can use their hard-earned transformation regarding groups to help others who are shy or socially inept. They may play significant roles



in group functioning to ensure that no one is left out of the sharing and decision-making process. As a result, they often become very valuable facilitators and employees!

## Chiron in the 12th House

The mysterious planetoid in this mysterious house hid its interpretation from me for quite some time, perhaps because it's my placement, too. The 12th house is made up of so many components — karma, intuition, secrets, endings, global focus, humanity, and more — that it is really my clients who have revealed which aspect of the 12th contains the primary wound.

Barbara Hand Clow tells us this is a very strong placement for Chiron, where its "healer" and "mystic" attributes are accentuated.<sup>4</sup> Yet, the 12th is commonly referred to as the house of hidden wisdom and strengths, first given that name by Tracy Marks.<sup>5</sup> Here is where the wound lies. People with Chiron in this house have innate and remarkable intuitive and healing skills but are very shy about letting others know about their talents. They prefer to operate incognito, often repressing the use of their gifts. I call them the "stealth healers."

The wound with this house placement of Chiron occurs as these special gifts emerge in the person's youth. The uncanny observations, premonitions, and healing abilities can frighten the young child who demonstrates them, especially when they are not well received by those around her. These children learn to repress or hide their abilities, partly out of fear of being seen as different, or out of fear of being laughed at or scolded, and even sometimes because they do not want to appear superior to others. By

repressing or hiding a significant part of oneself when young, the core wound that emerges is one of deception and self-limitation.

Due to repression and self-limitation, adults with this house placement live lives far below their full potential. They can remain underachievers until they do their emotional healing work. So, 12th-house Chiron people frequently go into work that serves others, but not using the full strength of their abilities until their personal healing takes place.

As this wound is brought to consciousness and addressed, these people become more comfortable with the full dimension of their skills to help others, and truly begin to embody the Healer archetype. They also offer great encouragement to others whose talents are obvious to them but hidden to the world.

**Author's Note:** In terms of house-cusp positions, I use the older Placidus house system, instead of Koch, because it was the most commonly used house system when I started my astrology career years ago, and it has continued to work quite well for me. I find Stephen Arroyo's rule — reading any celestial body that is within 6 degrees of the next house cusp as being in that next house — to be very accurate and applicable to interpreting Chiron. He sees houses as "fields of experience that slowly develop, peak, and then drop off in strength."<sup>6</sup> I could not agree more!

## References

1. Barbara Hand Clow, *Chiron: Rainbow Bridge between the Inner and Outer Planets*, Llewellyn Publications, 1997, ch. 1.
2. Serge Daneault, M.D., "The Wounded Healer," in the *Canadian Family Physician*, September 2008, pp. 1218-1219.
3. *Happy*, the movie, writer/director Roko Belic, 2011.
4. Clow, *Chiron*, pp. 75-77.
5. Tracy Marks, *Your Secret Self*, CRCS Publications, 1989, pp. 31-32.
6. Stephen Arroyo, *Guidelines for Understanding the Essentials of the Birth Chart*, CRCS Publications, 1989, p. 127.

© 2013 Corrie Cooperman —  
all rights reserved