

Times of the Soul: Mythic and Astrological Patterns of Return

with Brian Clark and Peter O'Connor

a weekend seminar exploring the inevitability and possibility of
Return and Renewal

March 17 & 18, 2018
Sydney, NSW

Day 1 *Nostos*

Nostoi is the ancient Greek idea for return, an implication of homecoming. While *Nostos* was a collection of epic tales about various heroes' return home from Troy, it can be broadly applied to the archetypal journey back home, whether that be Odysseus' return to Ithaca, Persephone's return to her mother, Psyche's return to Eros or Orpheus' return from Hades. Through these mythic narratives we can begin to glimpse the archetypal nature and pattern of return, along with the possibilities it brings for the next phase of the journey. However this body of myth also cautions us about the pitfalls of becoming lost in the past and missing the turn back to home. Today we let the myths speak about the human patterns and many possibilities of return and how we can best honour our own returns.

Day 2 *Kyklos*

Today we will consider return as part of a larger cycle through the lens of astrology. An ancient belief suggested that history repeats itself because the stars always return to their former positions. Images of return and renewal are embedded in all astrological cycles, as each planet returns to its zodiacal degree or to its conjunction with the Sun at some defined point in its cycle. Underlying each astrological cycle is the inevitability of return and the enduring image of the eternal return. Astrology is an imaginative tool that assists to understand the mystery of returns through the cycles of the planets. The mirror of the sky reflects back the many possibilities inherent in the archetypal motif of return.

Brian Clark has had a passionate and fulfilling relationship with astrology for over 40 years. He is the creator of the **Astro*Synthesis** open learning program which has been shaped from his experience as an astrological educator and counsellor over these decades. Alongside his private consulting practice, Brian teaches astrology in Australia and worldwide. His books and articles have been translated into numerous languages and he has received peer recognition for his contributions to the discipline of astrology.

Peter O'Connor is well known for his focus on dreams in his clinical work infusing his psychological perception with myth and classics. He was the popular columnist for the *Good Weekend's Inner Life* and the author of the highly acclaimed *Understanding the Mid Life Crisis*, and numerous other books including *Facing the Fifties*, *Beyond the Mist*, *The Inner Man*, *Dreams and the Search for Meaning*, as well as *Understanding Jung*.

*And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
and know this place for the first time*
- TS Eliot

For more information contact Narelle Macnamara at puresoulaastrology@gmail.com