JOSEPH CAMPBELL,

The Elucidator of Myths

**by**

**Marguerite dar Boggia**

Joseph Campbell was born in White Plains, N.Y. of an Irish Catholic middle-class family on March 26, 1904 at 7:25 PM EST. He was a professor, mythologist, author, lecturer, orator and, best known for his work in comparative religion and comparative mythology.

As a child he was delighted with the lore of the Native American Indians As a treat, when he was six or seven, his parents took him to see Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show at Madison Square Garden. He delighted in seeing Indians in their colorful plumage, on their prancing ponies. He became “fascinated, seized and obsessed by the figure of a naked Indian with his ear to the ground, with his bow and arrow in hand and a special knowledge in his eye”. He read every book in the New Rochelle library relating to Indians, even the 14 volumes of the Reports of the Bureau of American Ethnology. It was in his childhood that the foundation was laid for his work in his later years.

This is his chart.



Libra on the ascendant gives him a personality that is affable, affectionate, kind and courteous. Venus the ruler of Libra is exalted in Pisces in the fifth house of creativity.

He was an accomplished musician. He played the violin, banjo, guitar, ukulele, piano and the saxophone. He had a 7 piece band at the university. In the year 1925, he had $3000 in his bank account. For that period, that was a lot of money. Whatever he did, he thoroughly enjoyed. That was the secret for his success.

Venus trines Neptune, the planet of beauty, inspiration and art. Neptune is in the 9th house of teaching, publication, foreign travels, religion and spiritual endeavors. When he was 20 he traveled to Europe with his family. On the ship he met Jiddu Krishnamurti and his brother and an English woman, who gave Campbell the book, *The Light of Asia* by Edward Arnold. This opened up an attunement with his Inner Self. His friendship with Krishnamurti later evinced his interest in Eastern studies. He even studied Sanskrit. In 1927 Campbell received a fellowship from Columbia University to study in Europe at the University of Paris in France and the University of Munich in Germany.

Venus semi-squares Mars the ruler of the sixth house of health. In 1917 when progressed Mars squared the Moon and progressed Sun opposed progressed ascendant, he was seriously ill with a respiratory condition. For his recovery, his parents believed that being close to nature would help him to regain his strength. (Venus quincunxes Moon in the 10th). He separated from his parents and was sent to live in their bungalow in the woods by the lake. This was a blessing for him. He learned from his neighbor, how to fish, the names and the calls of the birds, the qualities of the vegetation, and much more. He believed he had Indian blood in him.

Mars also rules the 7th house of relationships. Campbell did not find the right woman to marry until he was 34 years old. He married a former student of his at Sarah Lawrence College. She was a dancer and later a choreographer and dancer in her own company.

Mars in Aries is very strong. It is conjunct the descendant. It disposits all of the planets in the chart except for Saturn in its own sign of Aquarius. The energy of Mars gave him a physical body that was healthy and robust. At Dartmouth he had joined Delta Tau Delta. As an accomplished athlete, he received awards in track and field events. For a time, he was among the fastest half-mile runners in the world. He participated in other sports while in school.

Mars, the co-ruler of the 9th house of religion, opposes the ascendant. In 1927 Campbell was still going to mass in church. After listening to Krishnamurti’s Lecture in Paris, he had challenges in his belief system. (9th house)

He has a stellium in Aries. In one less evolved, these energies might express as selfishness, self-will, and a ‘me first’ attitude; But not in Joseph. When he was 12, seated in a movie theatre, watching the American General and his soldiers kill the Native American Indian women and their babies, he stood up and shouted “No! If you only knew!” His mother was embarrassed. Aries and Mars, in one highly developed, express as the courageous hero, defending the weak and oppressed. This may have contributed to his work on mythology, where everyone admires the hero.

He had a stellium of Sun, Mercury, and Jupiter at 6+ degrees in Aries. Jupiter conjoining Mercury denoted an intellect that was fast in thinking but which was also endowed with wisdom. He considered himself to be a scholar and not a guru. Jupiter conjunct the Sun expressed as a generous and optimistic nature. Everyone was willing to help him to succeed. His aspirations were for a society that elicited the best in everyone and for a caring of Mother Earth. He was a shining magnet that attracted the young idealists of society. Sun conjunct Mercury confers creativity and the ability to write and to express his ideas. Sometimes however, it hinders objectivity in self-analysis. When Mercury is conjunct the Sun within less than 30’, Mercury is said to be “casimi.” This position may have some of the same difficulties of the “combust”. Sometimes they may get an idea in their head and no one can change it for some time. He did not believe in astrology or syncronicity. The stellium in the 6th house denoted his soul’s expression was through work to help and serve humanity. He wanted to help humanity but he said he didn’t know how.

With this stellium trining the Moon in the 10th house, he was destined to succeed and become famous through his works. The Moon rules fame. (10th house rules vocation).

Moon in the sign of Leo gives a tendency to be admired and appreciated. There is an unconscious need to be the center of attention and to seek the spotlight. He was an enjoyable person to be around. He had many great stories and jokes from his Irish background. He was affectionate and had a delightful sense of humor. When a car pulled into a gas station with a sign on the bumper reading: “Don’t Myth Joseph Campbell”, he laughed heartily at the pun.

Moon trine the Sun indicates the harmonious interaction between the conscious expression of his willpower and his emotional responses. It suggests that his parents were in harmony with each other. Moon trine Mercury was indicative of his common sense and his good memory. The conscious and unconscious minds cooperated with each other. Moon trine Jupiter favored success due to his kind disposition, his altruism and generosity of spirit.

Saturn is the ruler of the 4th house in the 4th house. The great tragedy occurred when the family home in New Rochelle burned to the ground in 1919, while he was in school. His father was the great hero. He was badly burned in trying to rescue his wife’s father.

Saturn is in a grand trine in air with the ascendant and with Pluto. The air signs gave a further impetus to his urge to write. Pluto is in the 8th house. It signifies the journey of the hero is through transformation of self, which will eventually lead to self-mastery.

Neptune and Uranus squared the Aries stellium in the sixth house. These were the challenges that he had to face when his desire to work was frustrated. He was anxious to influence the public with his altruistic beliefs but did not know how. With the arrival of the great depression (1929-34), Campbell spent the next five years (1929–34) living in a rented shack, without running water, on some land in Woodstock, New York. He later said that he would divide the day into four four-hour periods, of which he would be reading in three of the four-hour periods, and free one of them... He would get nine hours of sheer reading done a day. This went on for five years straight. In reality, he said he was in ‘bliss.’ He was following the real path of his destiny.

Uranus in Sagittarius in the third house of communication, contributed to his passion for reading and studying. It is said that he read six hours a day for sixty-five years. He wrote 38 books, plus editing the works of others. He held seminars and gave lectures on radio and on TV. When he was 30 he found work in the literature department at Sarah Lawrence College. It was a post he would retain for 38 years. When Alan Watts asked him what yoga exercises he practices, he said, he underlines sentences.

He attained fame in 1949 with his best-selling book: *The Hero with a Thousand Faces.* George Lucas, his friend, based his trilogy *Starwar*s on it. Campbell wanted the book to be a guide to reading a myth. He explained how challenging experiences could be seen as initiatory adventures. It was this connection between ancient stories and the emotional concerns of modern life that was distinctive. He believed myths are important because it puts us in touch with our inner being. When he was asked by his students for help in determining their vocation, he said that enthusiasm comes from God. He asked: Where is your enthusiasm? **Follow your bliss**.

Uranus opposes Neptune in the 9th house of publication and religion. In his later books he tried to show that all religions of the world, were only “masks” of a single transcendent truth, that is elusive and ultimately unknowable. In his last book (1986) *The Inner Reaches of Outer Space: Metaphor As Myth and As Religion,* he said that today we need a new metaphor and myth: that of the brotherhood of the one humanity on our planet, earth.

Some of his famous sayings are:

“The fates lead him who will; him who won’t, they drag.”

“Myth is what we call other people’s religion.”

“Computers are like Old Testament gods; lots of rules and no mercy.”

“The goal of life is to make your heartbeat match the beat of the universe”

“All the gods, all the heavens, all the hells, are within you.”

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*Marguerite dar Boggia* presently serves as Membership Secretary for ISAR, the International Society for Astrological Research. She was past Secretary and Director of ISAR and Publisher of Kosmos, the ISAR journal. She was a co-founder of UAC and its past Secretary and Director. Her goal is to serve humanity and the spiritual Hierarchy of our planet. To that end, she offers **free, online**, three pages weekly of the Esoteric Studies as was known by **Pythagoras**. To receive these studies, she can be contacted at her website which she created at the age of 90: [**www.FreePythagorasTeachings.com**](http://www.FreePythagorasTeachings.com)