

Chiron and the advent of the centaurs 2

Pholus – the Drunken Rebel and our future among the centaurs

'In Wildness lies the preservation of the world'

Thoreau

In the first 2 weeks of June 1987 Bhagawan Shree Rajneesh, undoubtedly the most controversial spiritual teacher of the 20th century, gave a series of talks entitled 'The Rebel'. Over these two weeks, Osho (as he was known to his disciples) outlined an extraordinary vision of a new kind of human being who would inherit our planet in the coming centuries. It was not that Osho was privileged to knowledge that the rest of humanity could somehow not access – many other great teachers have spoken on the very same subject – but what stands out from these discourses is the sheer sense of freedom and power that courses through his words as he describes our future potential. Calling us 'the new rebel' he clearly outlined our responsibilities:

'The new rebel is not going to conform to the establishment and its interests. He is absolutely unconcerned about his respectability, reputation, honour, worship; he is not in need of any of these things. The new rebel has no hypothetical God. He has a real human being. His effort is to clarify, to unburden the human heart, to raise human consciousness to its highest peaks.'

In my first article in this series on the Centaurs and our future consciousness, I discussed the impact and meaning of Chiron, the first and best known of these legendary figures. In this current article I would like to consider another centaur, the far less well known Pholus, as an archetype of the complex transformations taking place within human beings today. Many people may wonder whether these old Greek legends really have any relevance or meaning in our contemporary world. To this I would respond that all myths tap into a common sacred source – the collective consciousness field that connects all human beings together as one. If we can successfully unlock the symbolism behind a mythical figure, then we have prised something deep out of the hidden world of archetypes. These old legends contain the storyline of our future evolution in seed form.

Let's take the case of Pholus – He was one of the so-called 'good' centaurs and was custodian of the sacred wine of Dionysus. As a 'brother centaur' to Chiron, his story shares many traits to that of Chiron – for example, both were wounded by a toxic arrow. In Pholus' story, in an exchange with Hercules, the chest containing the sacred wine was opened and such was its intoxicating power that it drew in all the other centaurs who went mad because of its scent and were slain by Hercules. Following this, Pholus then accidentally dropped one of Hercules' poisoned arrows on his own foot and died. What really stands out as a symbol in this story is the repeated symbol of the wine and its intoxicating power as well as the

poisoned arrow. The wine and the toxin have a close symbolic connection to Pholus, since he was the keeper of the wine of the Gods and died because of an intoxicating substance.

When I allow my own intuition to penetrate these centaur myths, here is what I see:

The centaurs, as we discussed in my article on Chiron, represent the future man – an integration of the wild spirit of Gaia and the highest wisdom of the human. As keeper of the wine, Pholus represents a genetic triggering mechanism in our blood that when activated leads to a chain reaction in which we are flooded by higher consciousness. This higher consciousness – represented by the intoxicating scent of the wine – literally kills off certain aspects of our lower nature. This notion of animals being driven mad by demons also connects us into Christ's well-known exorcism of the spirit Legion in the New Testament. Indeed, the higher consciousness is synonymous with Christ consciousness. That both Chiron and Pholus were accidentally wounded and killed by the poisoned arrows dipped in the Hydra's blood also speaks volumes. The Hydra's blood is an alchemical symbol for the highest expression of the Divine feminine (also known as 'shakti'), which destroys the human ego and gives birth to a new and unified consciousness.

These centaur stories and their astrological counterparts conceal, I believe, some very, very deep truths about our future. The centaur is a perfect symbol for the union of man and the Divine. The wild but purified lower nature strives upwards to meet the heady Divine currents pouring down. The balance of these two natures – the wild, carefree, freedom loving spirit of Gaia and the intoxicating beauty and silence of the higher realms is what will give birth to the 'new rebel' – a human being who is both rooted in our love of the earth and simultaneously intoxicated by our higher nature. Whenever these two forces do *not* meet inside us, we create an imbalance. The refined essences of the spiritual realms must be brought into the world rather than cultivated outside the world. The new rebel cannot try and escape from society. We must challenge society armed with our ecstasy! If we focus too much on higher consciousness and try and escape the toxins of the lower planes, we cannot interface with the world, and if we cannot be human then we cannot wake humans up.

The world as it is is absolutely asleep. The last thing it wants or expects is the rebel. Everyone is too content. When Pholus opens up the Dionysian chest, then we had better be real. In the New Age there are a great deal of people who are simply self-obsessed, going round and round and never actually coming to grips with their deepest fears. Pholus unleashes a whirlwind, as do all the centaurs in their own way, but of them all, Pholus holds the keys to the most out-of-control energies in existence. He challenges us to let go of trying to control our lower nature. He urges us to use the rebellious fervour of our lower nature to challenge society's complacency. Pholus challenges science, he challenges religion and he especially challenges education. The aromas unleashed from the sacred wine tear down our structures and systems – they force us to laugh and dance or go mad trying to resist. For these reasons, astrologers see Pholus as an agent that unleashes chain reactions, and they have cited many examples since its discovery in 1992.

However, the centaurs are allied to the dark outer planets, and particularly to Pluto, Neptune and Uranus, whose orbits they cut across. Chiron we already know – he urges us to look into our wounds, and Pholus – he is the hidden one – the most dangerous of them all. When Pholus opens up his chest full of wines, then a chain reaction will overtake humanity and it will not change us from the outside, but from the inside – from within our very blood and genes. Beware Pholus and the wine of Divine Intoxication!