

## Synchronicity: Meaningful Coincidence or Chance?

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November, 2006

<http://www.falconastrology.com/syn.html>

### ***Glossary of Terms:***

**Action at a Distance (1) Physicist Alain Aspects** conducted an experiment demonstrating that subatomic particles could instantly communicate with each other at faster than light speeds without concern for a detailed mechanism of the propagation of effects between bodies. [Read the full article here . . .](#)

**Archetype:** Archetypes are universal themes that occur in all places, in all peoples, in all times. In the example of JRR Tolkein's *The Lord of the Rings*, we can see many of these figures: The Wise Old Man -Gandolf, The Reluctant Hero-Frodo, The Shadow-Gollum, Wormtongue, the Wise Priestess-Queen Galadrial, The Warrior-Boromir, The Lovers-Aragorn and Erwen, The Trickster-Tom Bombadillo. (2) The Gale Encyclopaedia of Psychology defines archetypes as "primordial images and symbols found in the collective unconscious, which in contrast to the personal unconscious-gathers together and passes on the experiences of previous generations, preserving traces of humanity's evolutionary development over time,". Jung suggested that specific archetypes could be passed from "generation to generation," similar to biological traits.

**As Above, So Below:** *Heaven above, heaven below; stars above, stars below; all that is above, thus also below; understand this and be blessed.*—Kircher, *Prodrom. Copt.*, pp 193 and 275. The Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus is a work which coins the term "As above, so below." The actual text as translated by Dennis W. Hauck is "*That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracle of the One Thing.*" (Scully, 2003) It is used in occult circles to demonstrate in essence the synchronicity between the inner life of the psyche and the outer life of manifest reality.

**Chairos:**(1) Both the words Chairos and Chronos are Greek and translate into 'time'. Chairos refers to the 'right time' for something to happen or constellate in one's life and as a period of time set apart for the carrying out of some specific task. (Nibley, 1967)

**Contradictions:** One day, "A visitor to Niels Bohr's country cottage asked him about a horseshoe nailed above the front door. `Surely, Professor Bohr, you do not really believe that a horseshoe over the entrance to a home brings good luck?' `No,' answered Bohr, *'I certainly do not believe in this superstition. But you know,' he added, 'they say it brings luck even if you don't believe in it.'*" Since atomism allows non-causal events and actions, the contradictions in atomistic theory are explained in terms of assumptions or a disconnection of cause and effect. In contrast, consistency is inherent in the law of cause and effect.(Common Sense Science, 2006)

**Divination:** (1) In divining we seek to discern the Will of the Divine (Spirit, the Gods, etc.) through a symbolic form of communication. The purpose is to bring one into harmony with 'the hidden forces of Nature,' or 'the scheme of the Universe,' and thus come to "Know Thyself" (as commanded by the Oracle at Delphi). (Mary Greer)

**Eris:** (1) Eris in Greek Mythology is the goddess or Daimon (spirit) of strife and discord. A trickster archetype, she stirs 'trouble' and creates transformation by breaking open boundaries. (2) According to Hesiod (Theog. 225, &c.), she is a daughter of Night, and he describes her as the mother of a variety of allegorical beings, which are the causes or representatives of man's misfortunes.

**Meaning:** (1) Meaning here is an exploration away from causal paradigms. Instead of looking for a rational explanation of an event, we look for significant and purpose. Instead of asking what caused something to happen; we asked 'what happened?' This reorientation away from cause and effect is reflected in modern physics which looks more for connections than explanations based on 'natural laws'. (Jung, 1964)

**Myth:** (1)Greek- Mythos- a story. (2)Greek- Mythos- a scheme or plan. **Tom Collins:** What does myth do for us? Why is it so important? **Joseph Campbell:** *It puts you in touch with a plane of reference that goes past your mind and into your very being, into your very gut. The ultimate mystery of being and nonbeing transcends all*

*categories of knowledge and thought. Yet that which transcends all talk is the very essence of your own being, so you're resting on it and you know it. The function of mythological symbols is to give you a sense of "Aha! Yes. I know what it is, it's myself." This is what it's all about, and then you feel a kind of centering, centering, centering all the time. And whatever you do can be discussed in relationship to this ground of truth. Though to talk about it as truth is a little bit deceptive because when we think of truth we think of something that can be conceptualized. It goes past that.* (Collins, 1986)

**Numinous:** That which is divine, metaphysical or mystical. The term was used by [Rudolf Otto](#) to describe that which is *wholly other*. The numinous is the *mysterium tremendum et fascinans*, the common 'divine' in all forms of spiritual experiences. It can lead to belief in [deities](#), the [supernatural](#), the sacred, the holy, and the transcendent.

**Parapraxis:** (1) Parapraxis are disturbed mental processes that manifest as inaccuracy, forgetfulness and slips of the tongue--the famous 'Freudian Slip'. (Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary, 1973)

**Paris:** (1) Paris in Greek Mythology is the son of King Priam. When Hecuba, his wife and queen was pregnant with Paris, she had a nightmare--her unborn child grew up to destroy all of Troy. Priam, disturbed by the nature of the dream, sought oracular advice. He was told that his son would lead to the destruction of Troy. Shocked, Priam ordered the baby be put to death by the herdsman, Agelaus. Agelaus left the child on Mount Ida to die from exposure but, returning five days later, found the boy still alive and took him home, where he brought him up in secret. Paris grew in to a man, noted for his extreme beauty, wit and charisma. It was for his wit that Zeus chose Paris to judge between the three goddesses--a choice that led, as the dream synchronistically foretold, to the burning of Troy.

**Psyche:** (1) Psyche means soul, and here the term is used to describe everything that is conscious--what we 'think' and what we 'think we think'--and everything that is unconscious or unknown in an individual. In other words, psyche is the entirety of the non-corporeal aspects of a being. (Schuler, 1997)

**Psychoanalysis:** (1) Psychoanalysis, A procedure for investigating repressed psychical content and the methodology of treatment; a collection of psychological information obtained by this methodology. (Freud and the Unconscious, 2006)

**Psyche & Matter:** (1) The coincidence of an inner psychic state in the observer with a simultaneous objective, external state that corresponds in some way: An example can be taken from Jung's files. A patient was telling him about a dream she had. In it she was given a golden scarab. When she mentioned this, Jung, with his back to the window, heard a tapping noise. A flying insect was knocking against the window from the outside. He opened the window and caught it in his hand. It was a scarabaeid beetle, the closest thing to a scarab found in that northern region. (Jung, 1964)

**Psychopomp:**(1) Psychopomp. A psychic factor that mediates unconscious contents to consciousness, often personified in the image of a wise old man or woman, and sometimes as a helpful animal. From [JUNG LEXICONA](#) Primer of Terms & Concepts by DARYL SHARP (2) All underworld mythology, including the ancient Sumerian story of [Innana and her dark sister Ereskagal](#) portray the theme of Psychopomp.

**Symbols VS Sign:** (1) A Sign is anything that represents something else directly. Think of traffic signs or the male and female signs on restrooms or the + and = sign in a mathematical equation. These signs all have a literal meaning. The = sign means 'equals' no more and no less. (2) A symbol has no definition at all but many levels of meaning. It represents a concept or idea, a feeling or emotion which is initially difficult to order or grasp intellectually. [Symbols](#) include works of art, mythologies, plays, literature, images and dreams which defy any simple description of all their nuances. (if you can define it precisely, it may have changed from a symbol to a sign).

**Synchronicity:** (1) Synchronicity is a term popularized by Swiss Psychoanalyst Carl G. Jung to describe the acausal connecting principle that links an inner event (thoughts, dreams, ideas, intuitions) with an external event in such a way that it has meaning. (2) See next article: Cause and Effect by Kim Falconer - [Types of Synchronicity](#). (3) See (Fournier, 1997)

**Synchronicity –Distance:** 2) The coincidence of an inner psychics state with a corresponding external event which takes place at a distance and is only later validated. In 1759, Emanuel Swedenborg was dining with friends 300 miles from Stockholm when he went pale and said that a great fire had broken out in Stockholm not far from his home. He went on to say that the fire was spreading rapidly and he feared that some of his manuscripts would be destroyed. Finally, at 8:00 p.m. he spoke with relief: "Thank God! The fire is extinguished the third door from my house!" Several days later, a messenger arrived from Stockholm and described the fire in details that exactly matched Swedenborg's account. (Synnestvedt, 1995)

**Synchronicity --Prophetic** (3) The coincidence of a psychic state with a corresponding future external event — i.e. a foreknowledge in dreams. Jung gives an impressive example of a young friend of his, who, having been promised a trip to Spain by his father, dreamed that he was in Spain, walking in a street which led to a square where there was a Gothic cathedral. He turned to the right and was met in another street by an elegant carriage drawn by two cream-coloured horses. He related the dream to Jung and other friends, and later went to Spain, and in one of the streets recognised the city of his dream, he found the square, the cathedral and to his utter amazement saw the cream-coloured horses and carriage exactly as depicted in his dream. (McBride, 1990)

**Transcendental Potential** (1) **Quantum objects or waves of possibility** are *transcendent potentials* existing outside of space and time effecting space and time." ([Goswami, n.d.](#)) (2) **Alain Aspect's experiments demonstrate Transcendental Potential:** More than a few minds boggled when Alain Aspect's team of physicist at the University of Paris' Institute of Optics discovered that subatomic particles could instantly communicate with each other at faster than light speeds. This phenomenon conflicts with [Einstein's theory of Special Relativity](#), which expressly forbids speeds exceeding that of light. Einstein said this would allow for time travel, a notion he considered too paradoxical to consider. (*Universe as hologram*,2005) (3) **If particles are not sending signals at faster than light speeds**, it means that something even more bizarre might be going on. On the subatomic level, the distinction between observer and object disappears. Time flows both forward and backward symmetrically, location becomes 'nonlocality', indeterminate, and 'matter' is mostly

empty space. What we 'see' has more to do with our consciousness than anything that might be 'out there'. (Goswami, 1995, p. 107) [Read the full article here . . .](#)

**Transits:** (1) Transits are the movements and position of the planets, sun and moon are plotted against the backdrop of the birth chart—the map of planetary positions when one was born. When a planet, particularly an outer planet, moves across one of the key birth positions, something ‘happens’ which coincides with the nature and meaning of both the planet transiting and the planet contacted. (Falconer, 2006)

**Trickster:** (1) Trickster. Psychologically, descriptive of unconscious shadow tendencies of an ambivalent, mercurial nature. *[The trickster] is a forerunner of the saviour . . . . He is both subhuman and superhuman, a bestial and divine being, whose chief and most alarming characteristic is his unconsciousness.*["On the Psychology of the Trickster-Figure," CW 9i, par. 472]. *The so-called civilized man has forgotten the trickster. He remembers him only figuratively and metaphorically, when, irritated by his own ineptitude, he speaks of fate playing tricks on him or of things being bewitched. He never suspects that his own hidden and apparently harmless shadow has qualities whose dangerousness exceeds his wildest dreams.*[ Ibid., par. 478.]

**Universe** (1) One song.

**Unus Mundas** (1) literally means: One World. Journey of Wholeness