

## **Earth, Air, Fire and Water**

*Understanding the fundamental power of the four elements in the individuation process.*

Jung's analysis of personality which resulted in his theory of typology, derives conscious inspiration from his active interest in alchemy and explicitly connects to the four astrological elements.

In this seminar series we will explore the nature of the four elements; earth, air, fire and water as Jung used them to analyse Plato's character - suggesting that, although Plato possessed a preponderance of 'fiery spirit' and 'airy thought' he was relatively lacking when it came to the connection with sensation reality and concrete action ('earth'). As Jung explained it – *'Plato had to content himself with the harmony of airy thought-structure that lacked weight, and with a paper surface that lacked depth.* Jung's equating the earth element with 'concrete reality', of air with 'thought' and of fire with 'spirit' in this analysis enables us to infer the following relationships between the Jungian functions of consciousness and the astrological elements: thinking-air, intuition-fire, feeling-water, sensation-earth.

Jung later went on to study astrology in considerable depth and took seriously this method as a supporting technique for analysis. In a letter to Freud he wrote:

*Since you want to know my opinion about astrology I can tell you I've been interested in this particular activity of the human mind for more than 30 years...In cases of difficult psychological diagnosis I usually get a horoscope...I must say that I very often found that the astrological data elucidated certain points which I otherwise would have been unable to understand.*

In these seminars we will:

- Explore the psychological meaning of the elemental archetypes earth, air, fire and water
- Discover how the birth chart reveals ways in which the individual might expect to experience these archetypes
- Identify a simple technique which may be used to support your understanding of the individuation process

*Seminar participants wishing to obtain their 'elemental score' from their birth chart should contact Pamela prior to the seminar - [pamelatrimble@bluewin.ch](mailto:pamelatrimble@bluewin.ch)*

Suggested Reading:  
Psychological Types. CW 6.