

The background is a gradient of green and blue, with a starry or particle-like texture. On the left side, there are several circular elements: a large scale with numbers from 140 to 260, and several smaller concentric circles with arrows indicating clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation. The main title is centered on the right side.

WEIRD COINCIDENCES

AND HOW THEY CAN SHAPE OUR LIVES

“PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS” DECEMBER 2010

CME

An Initial Study of Extreme, Measurable Forms of Synchronicity

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CME EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Learn the basic definition of a conjunction of meaningfully powerful events (CMPEs)—the coming together within 12 hours of two or more independent events that share a long list of parallels.
2. Understand the rule-based nature of CMPEs, which makes possible the scientific study of them.
3. Name the key features of a CMPE at least two events, independence of events, close proximity of events, parallels, and subject situation.

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Mr. Perry; Drs. Landon, Greyson, and Whitfield; Ms. Whitfield; and Ms. Perry have disclosed no relevant financial relationships.

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However real and significant synchronicities can seem, they are also notoriously subjective. The events of a synchronicity can be simultaneous or years apart. They can be strikingly similar, or one event can merely seem like the answer to the other. What seems beyond chance to one person can seem random to another. What looks like a clear message from one angle can be interpreted differently from another angle, or be viewed as altogether meaningless. How can we study a phenomenon that exists so fully in the eye of the beholder?

Conjunctions of meaningfully parallel events (CMPE) are an extreme form of synchronicity that can potentially overcome this subjectivity. The phenomenon requires at least two independent events that occur within 12 hours of each other and that share a long list of common features or parallels.¹ This list of parallels needs to tell a coherent story that can then be viewed as commentary on a relevant situation in the life of the person to whom the CMPE happened. The story frames that situation in a certain way and thus conveys a “message” about it.

The specific parameters of this model can determine clearly whether something is a CMPE. The extreme parallelism between the two events

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EXTREME, MEASURABLE SYNCHRONICITY

Defined as:

1. 2 (or more) events that appear to be strikingly similar, but that just happen to converge in time through no normal causation (the usual definition of synchronicity)
2. They have a number of specific commonalities (usually about 8 or 9), a few of which are very striking and initially catch your attention
3. These commonalities synthesise to tell a story of sorts – they are not a random jumble but take on a meaningful shape

A SITUATION OF CONCERN IN YOUR LIFE

- They happen around a situation of concern in your life
- Something you are ruminating on, need guidance or reassurance about, such as...
- a decision to make, a difficult interpersonal situation you are involved in... the stuff of life!

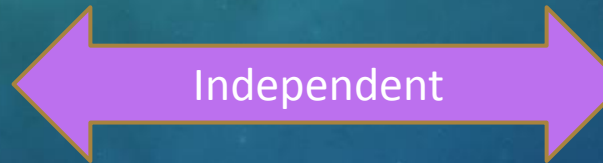
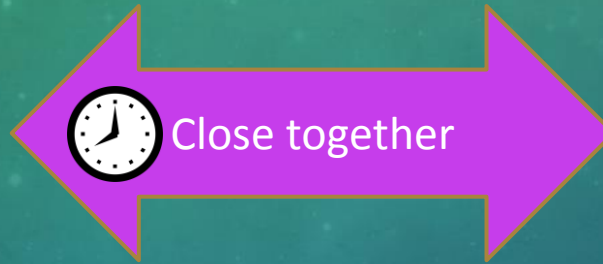
A SIMPLE EXAMPLE

“The Bucket Brigade” – February 12th, 2003

1. EVENTS

EVENT 1: BUCKET BRIGADE GUIDANCE

- Financial crisis in our organisation.
- In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
- Everyone mobilizes to produce a book.
- People leave normal roles to take part in the effort.
- Everyone works together as a team.
- They form a bucket brigade.
- The crisis is averted.



EVENT 2: WATER CLEAN-UP

- Water crisis in our organisation.
- In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
- Everyone mobilizes to clean up the water.
- People leave normal roles to take part in the effort.
- Everyone works together as a team.
- They form a bucket brigade.
- The crisis is averted.

2. PARALLELS

EVENT 1: BUCKET BRIGADE GUIDANCE

- Financial crisis in our organisation.
- In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
- Everyone mobilizes to produce a book.
- People leave normal roles to take part in the effort.
- Everyone works together as a team.
- They form a bucket brigade.
- The crisis is averted.



1. Crisis in our organisation.
2. In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
3. Everyone mobilizes to solve crisis.
4. People leave normal roles to take part in the effort.
5. Everyone works together as a team.
6. They form a bucket brigade.
7. The crisis is averted



EVENT 2: WATER CLEAN-UP

- Water crisis in our organisation.
- In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
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3. SYMBOL

SITUATION OF CONCERN

- Financial crisis in our organisation.
- In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
- Everyone mobilizes to produce a book.
- People leave normal roles to take part in the effort.
- Everyone works together as a team.
- They form a bucket brigade.
- The crisis is averted.

Q: Should we really *do* this?

SYMBOL

- Water crisis in our organisation.
- In response, it sets aside what it normally does.
- Everyone mobilizes to clean up the water.
- People leave normal roles to take part in the effort.
- Everyone works together as a team.
- They form a bucket brigade.
- The crisis is averted.

A: You *have* to do this. You have no choice.

4. INTERPRETATION

SITUATION OF CONCERN

A situation in your life that is
active and relevant.

PARALLELS

Each parallel says “It is right that” or
“It is true that.”

SYMBOL

Answers a question or uncertainty

INTERPRETATION OF “THE BUCKET BRIGADE”

SITUATION OF
CONCERN:

“Bucket brigade”
guidance

PARALLELS

1. **IT IS TRUE** that there is a crisis in our organisation.
2. **IT IS RIGHT** that in response, it sets aside what it normally does
3. ...that everyone mobilizes to solve the crisis
4. ...that people leave normal roles to take part in the effort
5. ...that everyone works together as a team
6. ...that they form a bucket brigade.
7. **IT IS TRUE** that the crisis will be averted

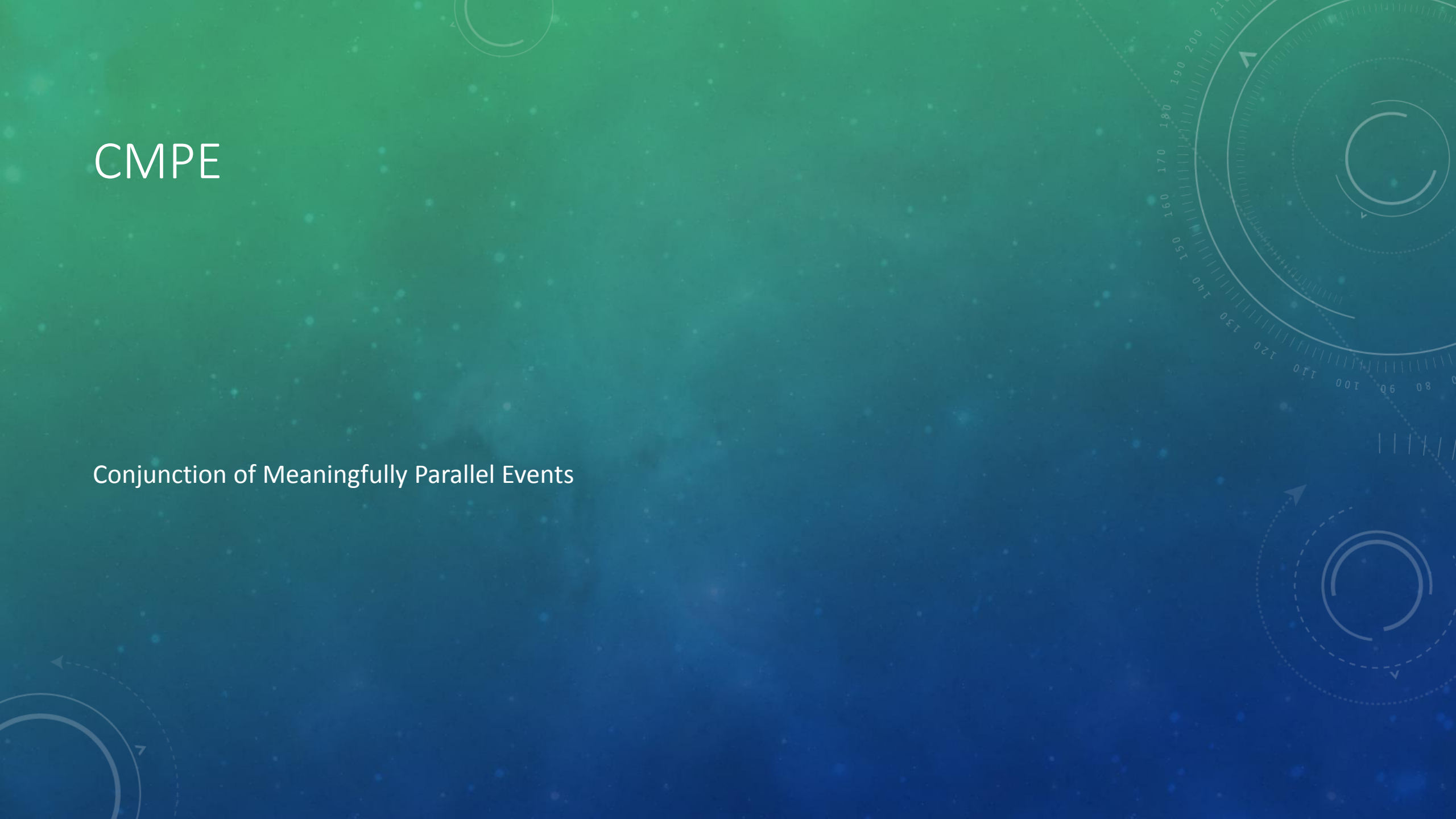
SYMBOL

Q: Should we really *do* this?

A: You *have* to do this. You have no choice.

CMPE

Conjunction of Meaningfully Parallel Events



A RULE-BASED SYSTEM ANALOGOUS TO OUR WORKING PROCESS AS ASTROLOGERS

Process	CMPEs	Astrology
We capture the data	We write down the events in detail as soon as possible after we notice a CMPE has occurred	We gather all the important data from the chart in some kind of systematic way
We capture the main themes	We write a list of parallels between the events	We highlight the themes that keep repeating themselves in different ways
We synthesise the information into some kind of interpretation based on the raw data and the situation in question	We write an interpretation based on how the parallels and the symbols relate to the situation in question	We come up with an interpretation that faithfully incorporates these main themes and also relates to the client and their current needs

WHERE DOES INTUITION FIT IN?

1. Sometimes the message is intuitively obvious.
2. BUT... digging in with the rules always yields the best results!

“WALKING IN TWO WORLDS”

- “Feet on the earth and fingertips in Heaven.” Jeane Dixon

THE ASTROLOGY



“PERSEPHONE” – MARCH 4TH, 2003

- EVENT INVOLVING THE SITUATION OF CONCERN: I told Robert the myth of Hades and Persephone as a way of describing the Pluto transits and real-life issues I was experiencing
- SYMBOLIC EVENT: Earlier that day, Robert reads an eerily parallel story in the book *The Spiritual Tourist*

“PLUTO TRANSIT” – MAY 5TH, 2006

- EVENT INVOLVING THE SITUATION OF CONCERN: I am making notes on *Alive and Well with Pluto* by Bil Tierney, since I am aware I am heading into a Pluto-Sun opposition.
- SYMBOLIC EVENT: Robert makes notes on a spiritual document that contains many of the same points as my notes. This was to do with his own work project and was totally unrelated to me.

“PLUTONIAN ENERGY” – JUNE 26TH/27TH 2006

- EVENT INVOLVING THE SITUATION OF CONCERN: I am reading a section from *The Book of Pluto* by Stephen Forrest, again, because of my impending Pluto-Sun opposition.
- SYMBOLIC EVENT: Robert is writing up a set of class notes he taught on one of the sayings of Jesus, which had a list of parallels with the section I happened to read in my book.

“PLUTONIAN WISE WOMAN” – AUGUST 6TH, 2006

- SYMBOLIC EVENT: Conversation with a girlfriend on spiritual perspectives around the Holocaust
- EVENT INVOLVING THE SITUATION OF CONCERN: A section of *The Book of Pluto* by Stephen Forrest, which I am reading because of my Pluto-Sun opposition

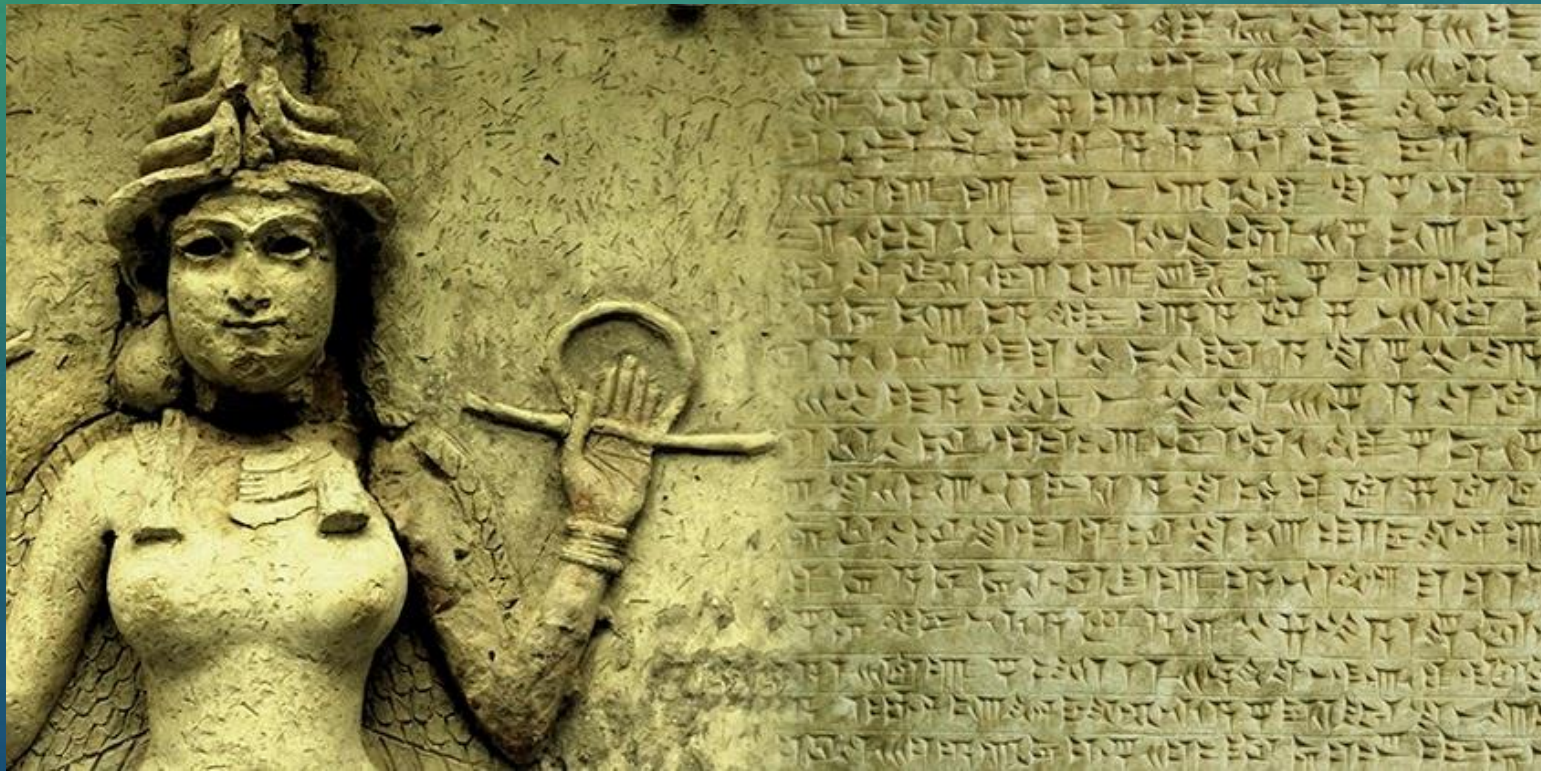
A DEVELOPING THEME IN THE CMPES

- “Pluto Transit” – unflinchingly facing the outer/inner darkness so it can be transformed
- “Plutonian Energy” – this will release a huge amount of energy which can enhance our spiritual growth
- “Plutonian Wise Woman” – which can result in being able to genuinely help another go through their own periods of deep darkness

“HERO’S JOURNEY” – JUNE 1ST, 2008

- EVENT 1 INVOLVING THE SITUATION OF CONCERN: Robert and I discuss the 3 2006 Pluto CMPEs and what impact that process has had on me
- SYMBOLIC EVENT: Robert receives by email a short, unsolicited essay on *A Course in Miracles* containing some of those themes
- EVENT 2 INVOLVING THE SITUATION OF CONCERN: I read a section from *The Luminaries* by Liz Greene to make sense of my Pluto-Sun opposition (now thankfully nearing completion!!!)

“INANNA” – OCTOBER 28TH, 2015



THE PRACTICALITY OF CMPES

They address situations of concern in your life, as diverse as:

- Business decisions
- Personal decisions
- Predictions
- Insight into the core dynamics of a situation
- Pointing out inner shifts that need to happen, giving insight into our inner process and inner healing

A FINAL WORD

- Because they are so personalised they can lead to deeply internalising their helpful messages