



At age 30, Bache began a warrior's journey into the challenging 8th House terrain of death, rebirth, and deep transformation.

that led to astrology, my spiritual path, and an enduring life passion. As an 18-year-old college freshman, a dose of LSD changed my life and shifted me onto a life path far better than the one I had been on. I went from being a depressed adolescent atheist to someone who felt a higher intelligence beyond the rational materialism of the culture. Two things stand out from that encounter. I experienced something like "a vast system of patterning," which directly led to astrology. More importantly, I had a fleeting experience of the *Primal Void*, where I disappeared, and I felt healing so profound that it infused me with hope and wonder.

I will describe Bache's chart in light of his journey, a journey that challenged him to his depths. He is more than friendly to our art—Bache studies astrology, references his chart, and is married to an astrologer.

CHRISTOPHER BACHE

A PSYCHEDELIC ELDER

by Andrea Conlon

"[Psychedelic] substances are **sacraments** that help us reconnect with the universe." —Bache

In this article, I will introduce Christopher Bache, a psychedelic elder, and examine how his chart supports his life's work. His mystical experiences and visions have profoundly impacted me and have a special message for humanity in this time of worldwide crisis.

Bache reported his 20-year journey encompassing 73 high-dose LSD sessions and described his visions in the book, *LSD and the Mind of the Universe*. At a time when there is a psychedelic revolution and psychedelics are experiencing a resurgence as a powerful healing modality, Bache's work stands out as an important achievement and a testament to the power of LSD to reveal the *Cosmic Mind*. Bache writes, "Therapeutically structured LSD sessions are not an end-run around spiritual practice ... but a particularly intense form of spiritual

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practice." (p. 12) His message goes beyond strictly personal healing to the future awakening of our species.

My history with LSD is minimal but important because it opened a pathway

North Node

We enter sacred space when we explore a birth chart and glimpse the life of the soul. Some charts speak strongly to us, especially when we have a person's life's work to match with the chart. Bache's chart stands out in that manner to me.

Let's start with the nodal axis. You cannot read Bache's works, either *Dark Night, Early Dawn*, or *LSD and the Mind of the Universe*, and not be impressed by his courage. This is a striking enactment of the **North Node**, which lies in **Aries in the 8th House**. Nodal axis theory tells us that the North Node is difficult to reach and that we enact the South Node unconsciously by default. Yet, at the early age of 30, Bache began a warrior's journey into the challenging 8th House terrain of death, rebirth, and deep transformation.

It's fascinating to see that the ruler of the North Node is **Mars in Gemini**, just a hair's breadth from being technically out of bounds and **conjunct Mercury in the 9th House**, also nearly out of bounds. Gemini is a radically open-minded reporter and teacher. A **Mercury-Mars conjunction** features a highly energized mind. These qualities are reflected in Bache's spiritual practice and explorations. The Mercury-Mars conjunction links to both his North Node evolutionary work and his **Virgo Ascendant**.

A Study in Mercury

Bache's chart is a virtual study in **Mercury**, the messenger of the Gods, which conjoins the **MC** from the 9th House. With a **Virgo Ascendant**, Mercury rules the chart and is strong in the sign of Gemini. Bache is a professor emeritus in philosophy and religious studies at Youngstown State University. In these psychedelic sessions, he went from *studying* world religions to *personally exploring* the experiential dimensions of the universe. Both study and exploration are 9th House processes. I suspect that being called as a *messenger* is Bache's most essential soul work.

His exploratory journey began with session after session of intense purification, which he termed "*the ocean of suffering*," and ends with being shown that the human species is evolving. He wrote, "*I had incarnated with the task of draining from the collective psyche some of the karmic poisons of our turbulent history to assist the transformation humanity is undergoing.*" (p. 286) Although he began the journey thinking of his personal transformation, his visions expanded to encompass humanity. "*The ocean of suffering is the second movement of a larger symphony ... a movement whose dynamics are inherently collective, focused on a collective patient and aimed at a collective transformation.*" (p. 139)

His vision is not unique. A similar message has been given to indigenous people,

contemplatives, and other psychedelic explorers in our times. Bache saw a collective purification in front of us, driven by climate degradation, human ignorance, and our human history of trauma. He saw a great global unraveling of epic proportions, massive death, and the wholesale collapse of structures, which then led to the birth of a new human, whom he terms "*the Diamond Soul.*" The *Universe* is gestating this new future human, he believes, and we are collectively cooking in an alchemical process that higher forces of the cosmos are orchestrating. "*In giving birth to the Diamond Soul, nature is not abandoning our planet; it is beginning a new chapter in its long evolutionary story.*" (p. 203)

Moon and South Node

Bache's **Scorpio Moon** conjuncts the **Libran South Node**. In this critical feature of his karmic past, we see that he is no stranger to the dark. The raw intensity and grit of the Scorpio Moon served

him well as he underwent the experience of purification. In his account, he became a *conduit*, processing the collective traumas of the human mind. "*The intense cleansing lasted hours, seizures alternating with periods of deep sobbing for my pain and the suffering of humanity.*" (p. 49) This was the pathway that later led to revelatory visions and blissful states of consciousness.

Bache makes clear that what emerged on the other side of processing collective suffering was worth the pain that preceded it but the journey concluded with a bittersweet note. He had to stop the work because it became too painful to keep leaving the ecstatic realm he experienced: "*I could no longer bear the heartache of separating from my Beloved after a session ended. It simply became too painful for me to come back from being dissolved so deeply into the crystalline body of God.*" (p. 294)

Reincarnation is core to Bache's worldview. He regards it as a given and has written extensively about his beliefs in previous books. The processes of death, rebirth, and transformation resonate deeply within the heart of his **Scorpio Moon**. With the **2nd House Moon in a close trine to a 10th House Uranus**, lunar energy resources flow to his worldly mission. Uranus can be correlated to the *Cosmic Mind*. The mission of a 10th House **Uranus in Cancer** is radical, and Bache is certainly an "*emotional radical!*"

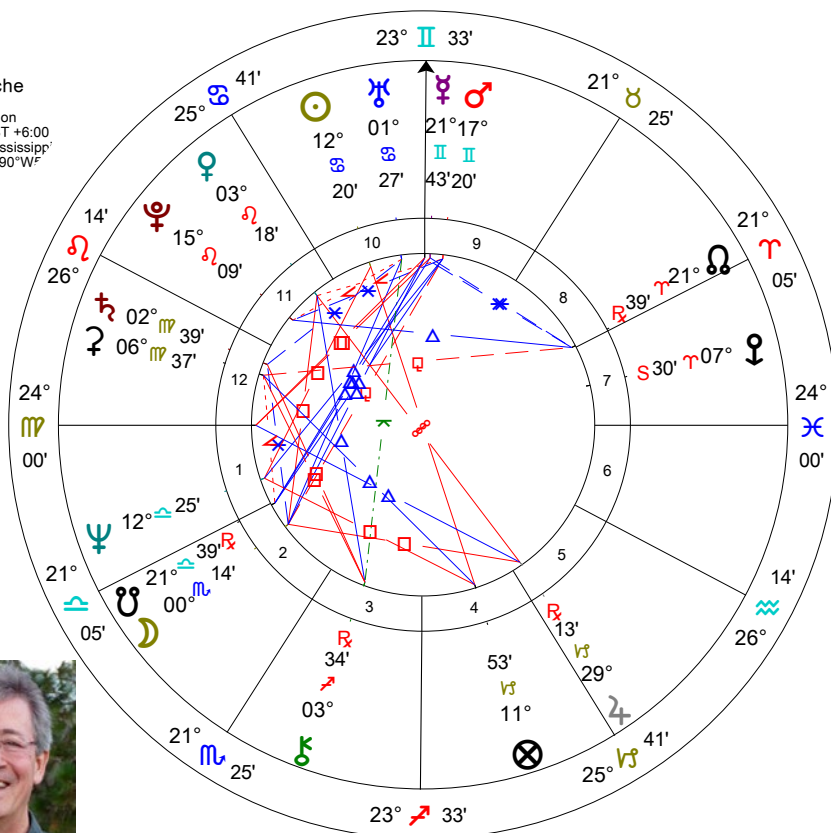
Chris does not recommend that others push themselves as he did with the high doses of LSD he took: "*Years of work for hours of communion is a steep price to pay for these diamonds,*" he writes. (p. 275) Bache is also quick to say that work with psychedelics is a *temporary* state of heightened consciousness. What you are given access to under psychedelics is not the steady access of a realized mystic. He suggests that a slower, more moderate pace would allow better retention and integration of these gifts.

His **Scorpio Moon conjunct the South Node** also tells a more personal story of wounded confidence. Although his most important messages to us are the visions he received for the collective, Chris reports personal healing later in his process. I found this particularly poignant. "*One session brought forward what is perhaps my deepest personal fear—the fear of being seen and found lacking. Someone looks at you, sees who and what you are, and is disappointed. You see it in their eyes and fallen face, and there is nothing you can do to change it. When this wound was taken back to its source and healed, the session shifted into an ecstatic experience of the perfection of being.*" (p. 268)

Next, let's fold in the strong **Virgo** dimensions of Bache's chart. In addition to

Bache's chart is a virtual study in Mercury, the messenger of the Gods, which conjoins the MC from the 9th House.

Chris Bache
Natal Chart
Jul 4 1949, Mon
10:46 am CST +6:00
Vicksburg, Mississippi
32°N21'09" 090°W
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
Mean Node



CHRISTOPHER BACHE

Virgo rising, we also see a **Saturn-Ceres conjunction** in the 12th House, where the oceanic consciousness of the eternal reigns. His spiritual discipline, represented by Saturn in the 12th House, nurtured him and those of us who study his teachings. Here is Virgo as the servant, whose hard work serves the collective. *"Profound experiences are not simply given to you; you have to train yourself to receive them and hold on to them. I cannot emphasize this too strongly."* (p. 25)

In true Saturnian fashion, Bache's message is one of self-responsibility. *"Therefore, whatever our experience is in space-time, we must have the courage to sit still and face the fact that we are experiencing nothing but the manifestation of our own consciousness."* (p. 179) Bache counsels us to face our shortcomings on the spiritual path. This is the fierce yoga of the Virgoan path.

This 12th House dimension of Bache's chart symbolizes a life's work connected to healing the ancestors and the collective mind. We see this literally when he says, *"I was being drawn into vast purifying exercises that seemed focused on the collective psyche rather than my personal psyche, ... to the liberation of the entire human species."* (p. 20)

The **Ceres-Saturn conjunction** brings in a further meaning of how goddess energy nurtured him and now flows out to us. What might have seemed like an overly dour spiritual practice is warmed by the nurturing energy of Ceres fusing with Saturn. Ceres is another aspect of the *Great Mother Goddess* and integrates with his **Cancer Sun** through a stimulating sextile.

Bache's chart is that of a lunar man whose light shines through the lens of the **Sun in Cancer**, and its allegiance to the *Mother Goddess*. His public mission is one of *nurturing*, which he brings to his students and his writing. *"The net effect was that I became a collective cosmic mother caring for the planet as it writhed in pain. Though the pain was terrible, I would not abandon it. It was my child."* (p. 108)

Sun-Neptune Square

Now we come to the heart of the matter—Bache's almost perfect **Sun-Neptune square**. This square is further emphasized by both planets being in the angular 1st and 10th Houses. Here is a natural mystic and visionary. His **10th House Cancer Sun** is in a tense and powerful integration with the psychic porousness of a **1st House Neptune in Libra**. *"At that moment, my identity was not Chris Bache but the Divine Feminine who had set out to create the physical universe and who was now being*

reunited with her lover." (p. 110) This kind of solar essence is both fierce and tender. Neptune always requires a sacrifice of the ego, especially when configured with the Sun.

This is Chris's reflection on his **Sun-Neptune square**, *"I experienced myself being me...and yet I had become completely hollow, emptied of all personal content, and in the end transparent to a fluid, golden intelligence that permeated all reality and was flowing through me into whoever or whatever was in front of me. The image that stood out in my mind to frame this was the Sun-*

Bache's progressed Moon may symbolize Chris coming into a new phase of his life's calling. I believe that his courageous and revelatory work will ripple out to a wider audience as the progressed Moon passes through his 10th House.

Neptune square in my natal chart. It was as if my individuality (Sun) had yielded completely to the Divine (Neptune) and had become transparent to its vast energies." (p. 291)

Bach's 11th House is noteworthy with the presence of **Venus, ruler of the South Node, and Pluto, both in Leo**. Here the creative expression of Leo flows into the collective culture. Through Bache, Pluto is expressed as a cultural change agent and whistleblower. He reports that these qualities of soul landed him in trouble with authority and power in prior lives. What a relief for him, after long years of hiding his psychedelic work, that he can express the truth of his LSD experiences to us.

Progressions and Transits

As I write, Bache's progressed **Moon in Gemini** is just crossing the natal **Mercury-Mars conjunction** in the 9th House and will cross into the 10th House by July of 2022. This progressed Moon may symbolize Chris coming into a new phase of his life's calling. I believe that his courageous and revelatory work will ripple out to a wider audience as the progressed Moon passes through his 10th House.

Transiting **Neptune** also moves powerfully in Bache's chart, crossing his Pisces descendant and moving up over the horizon of the chart. He seems to be entering another kind of mystical communion. As Neptune crosses into the 7th House, Bache's relational mission is one of offering *compassion* as we face the challenging times ahead. Both the progressed Moon in the 10th House and Neptune crossing into the 7th House point toward a new era in his public life.

Also deserving of a mention is transiting **Pluto** crossing **Jupiter** in the last degree of Capricorn in the 5th House. Jupiter in Capricorn is an ambitious energy. And while there are surely personal dimensions to this transit, perhaps what is finding expression is his ripening as an elder.

Final Words

I hope that you will find your interest piqued to read his book *LSD and the Mind of the Universe*. **Luminous emptiness and diamond luminosity** are the realms where Chris Bache gained admission through relentless effort and discipline, and his message contains a prophecy. *"I carry humanity's future inside me as a public secret. I look on my people and am filled with compassion at the fate that awaits them and respect for their courage."* (p. 225) Chris reassures us that there is a vast and caring intelligence guiding us into the future.

While we may not want it to register, we can all feel the beginnings of *"the great unraveling."* It is exemplified in our current world transit of the **Saturn-Uranus square**. We see old structures collapsing and environmental degradation progressing rapidly. Chris's work situates this within a larger story that is ultimately redemptive and hopeful. It is the long and tangled story of human evolution. I'm so grateful for his nurturing presence and generosity, in being one of our important messengers at this time in our human evolution.

Note: All page numbers are from LSD and the Mind of the Universe.

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