

Tributes to the Lifework of Gerry Goddard

“Gerry Goddard worked quietly, year after year, on a distant island far from the centers of academic and cultural power. But in that very seclusion his fine intelligence flourished and brought forth some of the most deeply thoughtful, philosophically rigorous writings that his chosen field has ever seen. The field he chose to serve with such dedication and insight was astrology: the most marginalized and scorned discipline of all, but one that he recognized held a great treasure for the modern spirit. He knew that astrology in some sense represented a philosopher’s stone, something that could bring illumination to the great philosophical riddles. Paradoxically, it was from his distant island that he brought to astrology those very connections to the larger world of thought that it so deeply needed to rise to its true nobility.

For the better part of three centuries, astrology suffered the fate of being entirely ignored by the best minds of the age. It thereby lost that necessary vital transforming and replenishing web of relationship with the leading intellectual currents of the modern era, making it all the more vulnerable to scorn and rejection. Gerry Goddard brought one of the best minds of his age to engage one of the universe’s great mysteries, and he did so with unflinching care, modesty, and self-critical awareness. His writings are at once immensely comprehensive and embracing – crossing the boundaries of psychology, philosophy, history, science, religion – and yet devoted to clarifying subtle distinctions and penetrating complex arguments. He had a passion for the precise detail that was always held in equilibrium with an equal passion to grasp the whole. He stayed abreast of the most recent intellectual developments, and assimilated them so well that he could shine through them his larger vision. Both the philosophers and the astrologers of the world will be learning from him for a long time.”

Richard Tarnas, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Psychology,
California Institute of Integral Studies, author of *The Passion of
the Western Mind*, and *Cosmos and Psyche*

“Transpersonal Theory and the Astrological Mandala: an Evolutionary Model is a treasure trove of brilliant insights that are far ahead of the academic community. Gerry Goddard brings to this seminal work his incisive critical intellect combined with impeccable scholarship in a broad range of disciplines, including depth psychology, comparative religion, philosophy, and science. He illuminates various key issues in transpersonal theory through the prism of astrology, an ancient discipline that has been dismissed and ridiculed in the modern era. Reading Gerry Goddard’s extraordinary opus, one is reminded of the many centuries before the Scientific and Industrial Revolution, during which astrology was the domain of many intellectual giants of their times. This seminal book revives this tradition and demonstrates to the academic circles that astrology - properly understood and applied - is fully compatible with rigorous scientific thinking. It is a major contribution to psychology and philosophy that will bring inspiration to future generations and become a classic in the field.”

Stanislav Grof, M.D., founder of the International Transpersonal Association (ITA) and author of *Psychology of the Future*, *The Cosmic Game*, *When the Impossible Happens*, and *The Ultimate Journey*



“For many years and from afar, Gerry Goddard not only challenged transpersonal authors to question our assumptions and refine our models, but also labored toward an unprecedented marvelous synthesis of astrological and transpersonal thinking. The outcome of his painstaking efforts is this magnum opus, *Transpersonal Theory and the Astrological Mandala*, a major landmark in integral theory that, combining a rare blend of analytical rigor and depth of synthesis, articulates a coherent theoretical framework for an innovative astrological-transpersonal paradigm. I am convinced that Gerry’s visionary work will continue challenging and redefining transpersonal studies for decades to come.”

Jorge N. Ferrer: author of *Revisioning Transpersonal Theory: A Participatory Vision of Human Spirituality* and co-editor of *The Participatory Turn: Spirituality, Mysticism, Religious Studies*



“To follow Gerry Goddard as he tackles one fundamental problem after another in *Transpersonal Theory and the Astrological Mandala* is to take an extraordinary journey. His detailed, patient, and always constructive analysis of other thinkers and practitioners, his synthesis of major figures in the consciousness movement, and the subtlety and originality of his own formulations fuse to create a lasting contribution that we will be digesting for many years to come.”

Chris M. Bache, author of *Dark Night, Early Dawn*

“Gerry Goddard’s *Transpersonal Theory and the Astrological Mandala* is a brilliant synthesis of astrology, psychology and philosophy, and firmly establishes him as one of a handful of thinkers helping to usher in a new understanding of ourselves and the world. For anyone wanting to understand the cutting edge of integral thought today, Goddard’s writings make for essential reading.”

Ray Grasse: author of *The Waking Dream: Unlocking the Symbolic Language of Our Lives*, and *Signs of the Times: Unlocking the Symbolic Language of World Events*



“Gerry Goddard had a mammoth mind. Anyone seriously attempting to integrate Wilber, Washburn, Grof, Tarnas, and many others, must be up to the task. Gerry was. His *Transpersonal Theory and the Astrological Mandala* is not for beginners, but it is an excellent read for advanced transpersonal thinkers and readers who enjoy an amazing synthesis of the best minds around. I miss Gerry. I’m glad his book was posted on the web before he tragically died.”

Frank Poletti, M.A., Coordinator, Esalen Center for Theory and Research (CTR)

“With a wide-ranging, empowered intellect, Gerry Goddard was ahead of his time. This ambitious book will be a source of rich inspiration for future generations studying archetypal astrology and transpersonal theory. Gerry tackled daunting but irresistible subjects, areas that will captivate deeply searching thinkers from this point onward.”

Renn Butler: editor of *Stars of Comedy: The Astrology of Humorous Quotes*



“Gerry Goddard’s contribution to astrology was of a high order. As a transpersonal philosopher, he brought a robust and discerning intellectual sensibility to the project of revealing astrology’s deep archetypal structure and evolutionary implications – a project which he pursued with enormous devotion and passion. I had the relatively brief pleasure of knowing and working with him, but was always struck by the unique blend of humility and enthusiasm that came across in his communications. I feel Gerry was developing and refining his ideas over the years, and that he was seeking the highest quality of understanding that he could achieve for the limited readership he hoped to reach. All of his writings, not least his last work, *Transpersonal Theory and the Astrological Mandala: An Evolutionary Model*, have the quality of weaving the rich yarns of different modern thinkers together creatively into the astrological wheel, exposing the breadth, the beauty and the depth of astrology’s paradigmatic power. In this, and in his other writings, he has left a rich personal contribution – and it may well be that his ‘limited readership’ will grow, as indeed his work deserves.”

Suzi Harvey: psychoanalytic psychotherapist, past editor of *The Astrological Journal* and editor of *Orpheus: Voices in Contemporary Astrology*; co-author with her late husband Charles Harvey, of *Sun Sign, Moon Sign* and *The Principles of Astrology*

“The Mutable Cross and the Postmodern Ethos” by Gerry Goddard is a fascinating discussion of our ‘postmodern’ stage of consciousness. He brings together the thoughts of many modern thinkers - Rick Tarnas, Stan Grof and Ken Wilber, for example - building on the work of earlier thinkers and philosophers. He examines our present time - its high creative expressions and its frightening pathological distortions - in light of the ‘archetypal lattice work of the astrological model’ and particularly the mutable cross. He gives us a sense of a deep structure emerging out of the current confusion and profusion, and illustrates how astrology might enter the conversation taking place in the larger cultural arena on the new emerging paradigm.”

Darby Costello MA teaches and writes books for the Centre for Psychological Astrology and is with the Faculty of Astrological Studies in London. From her review (Astrological Journal, May/June 2001) of *Orpheus: Voices in Contemporary Astrology* edited by Suzy Harvey



“What I remember most about debating with Gerry on the IntegralWorld.net website was in what a gentlemanly fashion these debates were carried out. There’s an old saying that the surest sign that someone has lost an argument is when he raises his voice. Anyone engaged in scholarly or academic debates knows that it is possible to raise one’s voice in writing as well as speech...Gerry never raised his voice in any debates with me, nor in any of the other writings of his.... His voice carried just fine without having to raise it. It was a pleasure debating with him.”

Andrew P. Smith: author of *Worlds within Worlds* and the novel *Noosphere II and The Dimensions of Experience: A Natural History of Consciousness*

“While clearly holding well thought-out views of his own, Gerry engaged with a number of perspectives with an intellectual charity towards the proponents of divergent opinions that is, for me, the mark of true scholar. That is, someone who is really trying to engage with the vast complexity of the subject, and not driven by a desire to be ‘right’. I felt this most strongly in his critique of my own book *Hymns to the Ancient Gods*. While pointing out several occasions when I was too vague at certain moments, or appeared to contradict myself (and yes, he was right on both counts) he nevertheless tried to stay with my text and explore it within its own terms in a genuine attempt to make sense of what I had written...[W]hen Roberta contacted me with the sad news of Gerry’s death, I responded by describing Gerry as ‘one of the good guys’. By this I meant he was a genuine explorer on the weird and wide seas of astrology and its allied concerns, and for me he was up there with John Addey and Charles Harvey, both of whom tried to make sense of ourselves and our world within the philosophical and psychological paradigms that we are born into, and both returned to astrology, with all of its still-to-be-explored complexities, as the best form of ‘language’ in which to frame the nature of their quest... Gerry, wherever you are, you live on in time, as does your wisdom. Many thanks for our all too brief ‘conversations’.”

Mike Harding, existential psychotherapist and consultant astrologer is a senior lecturer at the School of Psychotherapy & Counselling Psychology at Regent’s College and author of *Hymns to the Ancient Gods* and co-author with Charles Harvey of *Working With Astrology*



“When Integral World started out in 1997 as an online forum for substantial debates on transpersonal matters, especially as they were raised in the work of Ken Wilber, Gerry was one of the first to send a contribution: “Airing Our Transpersonal Differences” (1997). It captured the spirit of why this website was set up in the first place: to create a space where quiet reflection and balanced analysis could blossom....These days, when integral thought has caught on and is marketed aggressively to the outside world as the final answer to many of the world’s problems, rereading Gerry’s essay “Airing Our Transpersonal Differences” (1997), I am struck by a gentle soul, who was able to both clarify and question the subtleties and intricacies of integral philosophy in a way that has been rarely seen.”

Frank Visser: Webmaster of IntegralWorld.net
Author of: *Ken Wilber: Thought as Passion* (SUNY, 2003)



“To me, Gerry Goddard was a celestial treasure. With his head in the stars and his feet planted in the study of human behaviour, he strode across the intellectual landscape like a humble giant. He was brilliant, and funny, and sweet. He was like a warm and loving university.”

Jeronimo Miller: bon vivant, raconteur, humorist, writer & friend