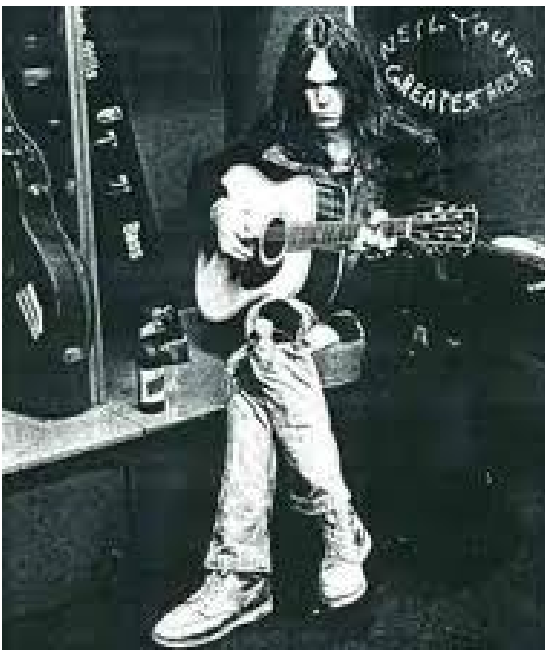


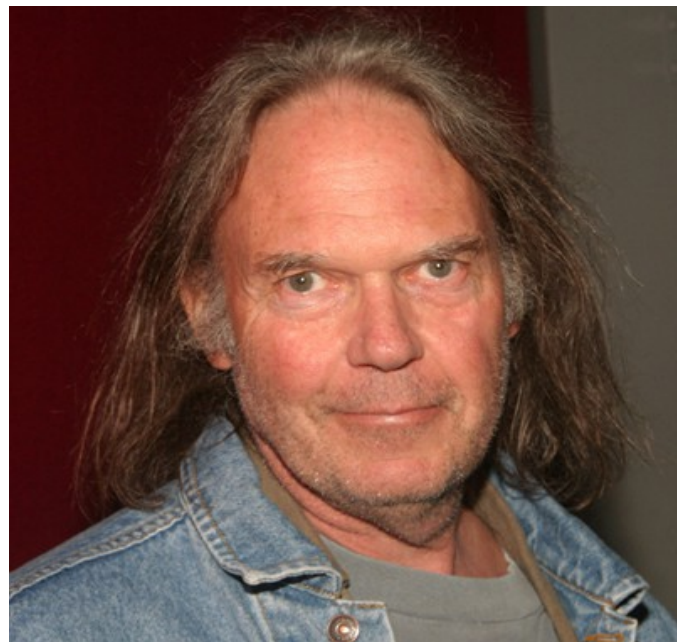
NEIL YOUNG

AN ESOTERIC PROFILE

BY FREDERIC SIMON
November 2013



1970



2012

"As I get older, I get smaller. I see other parts of the world I didn't see before. Other points of view. I see outside myself more." Waving Heavy Peace, Neil Young's autobiography

1. Biography of Neil Young.

Before reading about the extremely rich life of Neil Young, I invite readers to watch websites of other great singers - of the same generation and importance, and view Young's official website:

- ★ [Bob Dylan](#)
- ★ [Bruce Springsteen](#)
- ★ [Mick Jagger](#)
- ★ [Elton John](#)
- ★ [Neil Young's official website](#)

It is surprising that, unlike other musicians, there is nothing about his music, his last record, or concert, on his site. It seems more like the site of an environmental activist! For me, it shows the great originality of this artist who cannot be confined to any one category.

The young years

Neil Percival Young is born the 12 November 1945 in Toronto, Canada. His father was a journalist and writer. As a young boy he had bad health - polio at the age of five, epileptic seizures and spinal deformity.

After his parent's divorce, he moved with his mother to Winnipeg. As a teenager, he learnt to play the guitar and soon began writing songs. In Junior High School, he began to play with local bands and record songs that are stored in *The Neil Young Archives*.

On the road

To live out his passion, he leaves Canada for the United States in 1966, with bassist Bruce Palmer, heading for Los Angeles in a black hearse. With Stephen Stills, Richie Furay, Bruce Palmer and Dewey Martin, he founds the group *The Buffalo Springfield*. Three discs are recorded in 1966, 1967 and 1968 - *Buffalo Springfield*, *Buffalo Springfield Again* and after the band falls apart, *Last Time Around*.

Young's career was now on a positive track and he was free to record whatever he wanted. He had great success with his album *Harvest*, in 1972 and with his famous song, *Heart of Gold*. Young has had a long career that continues today. He works alone or with different bands and is creative and active in many musical genres, such as:

- Folk songs
- Blues
- Jazzy
- Country
- Rockabilly
- Rock
- Electronic
- Experimental

Here a link to his music [Neil Young Discography](#)

This diversity is a Ray 3 trait. See later *Section 3: A Rayology Profile of Young*.

The Artist

Young is first and foremost a guitarist – with acoustic and electric. He develops a technique of his own that is very original with percussive attacks, odds rhythms and many syncopations.

Example : "[New Mama](#)" from the record *Tonight's the Night* (1975).

Young puts the rhythmic accents in uncommon way. In rock, jazz or reggae, the strong beats are the 2 and the 4:

1 2 3 4 / 1 2 3 4 / ...

In Indian music, we find this rhythm at 8 beats like this:

/ 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 / 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 / ...

In Young's music, we often find these accents on the measures 1 and 4:

/ 1 2 3 4 / 1 2 3 4 / ...

It gives an aquatic feel to his music, a peaceful and rhythmic swing in the slow tempo, which reminds one of the movements of waves. This contrasts with his often wild and raw electric-guitar playing, and improvisation. As a teenager while listening to the song "[Cortez the Killer](#)" (album *Zuma* - 1975), I remember that I had pictures of a beach washed by the waves. However, the long guitar solo made me think of the element "fire". Water and fire.

This fits well with Young's character, analysed astrologically. He has his Sun and Ascendant in the sign Scorpio. Scorpio is a water elemental sign and its planet ruler Mars, is fire.



Examples of Young's music with this rhythm:

["Through my sails"](#) from the album *Zuma* (1975).

["On the beach"](#) from the album *On the beach* (1974):

["Words"](#) in the album *Harvest* (1972).

In "Words" the instrumental part, there are two different measures: 6/4 and 5/4 ...

/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 / 1 2 3 4 5 / 1 2 3 4 5 6 / 1 2 3 4 5 / etc.

For the vocal part, we find again the rhythm analysed above. It is a beautiful song and so lyrical! As I play it today this strange rhythm reminds me of the impermanence of all things and the rotation of the Wheel of Time. During the guitar solo, I "hear" outraged cries arising from those who cannot accept the powerful rhythm of nature.

Young also plays the harmonica, banjo, piano, harmonium, percussion and bass - he is a multi talented musician (again a Ray 3 trait). Then of course, he is a great singer with a unique voice.

Personal Life

Young has been married three times and divorced twice. He was married to his first wife Susan Acevedo for two years (1968-70). His second wife was actress Carrie Snodgrass (1969-75) who gave birth to Young's first child, Zeke, on September 8, 1972. Son Zeke, was later diagnosed with cerebral palsy, but he is now a man with his own work and independence.

Those relationships were not stable. Young was very immature and lived in his own world. His third wife Pegi Morton, gave Young the stability that he needed. She appears to be very important for the positive direction his life has taken. However, they were deeply shocked when their son Ben was born, deeply handicapped with a severe case of cerebral palsy. Consequently, they created the [Bridge School](#) that helps other families with the same problems. In 1984 daughter Amber Jean was born and she is now an [artist](#).

Other events that are also very important in his life are: the deaths of Danny Whitten and Bruce Palmer by overdose. Danny Whitten (1943-72) was the first guitarist of his group called *Crazy Horse*. They were very complementary as we can hear it on their first album *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere* (1969). But because of his addiction to heroin, Young fired him from the band on November 18, 1972:

"We were rehearsing with him and he just couldn't cut it. He couldn't remember anything. He was too out of it. Too far gone. I had to tell him to go back to L.A. 'It's not happening, man. You're not together enough.'

He just said, 'I've got nowhere else to go, man. How am I gonna tell my friends?' And he split. That *night* the coroner called me and told me he'd died. That blew my mind. Fucking blew my mind. I loved Danny. I felt responsible. And from there, I had to go right out on this huge tour of huge arenas. I was very nervous and ... insecure." (Wikipedia – « Danny Whitten »)

A few months later on June 4, 1973, one of his roadies died of a heroin overdose. It was a new shock for Young who wrote a song and an album about that tragic experience: *Tonight's the Night* (This record was published only in 1975). This album is, like his jacket, very black, and shows both the great sincerity and the black side of Young.



2. Where I place Neil Young upon the Path, the initiation. I hypothesise Neil Young is approaching: The First Initiation

As the Tibetan Master Djwhal Khul (DK) says in *Initiation Human and Solar*, p71:

“A disciple is one who is beginning to comprehend group work, and to change his centre of activity from himself (as the pivot around which everything revolves) to the group centre.

A disciple is one who realizes simultaneously the relative insignificance of each unit of consciousness, and also its vast importance. His sense of proportion is adjusted, and he sees things as they are; he sees people as they are ; he sees himself as he inherently is and seeks then to become that which he is.”

I think that Neil Young is an aspirant near the First Initiation because he is a man with a strong personality, and this is an essential requirement. The aspirant must have passed through the "Leo the Lion" stage, the personality stage. Young is very interested in others, is very generous and has always wanted to use his money and his fame to help others. Here is the developing "group" process. All his life, he has had to face a lot difficulties: bad health, the death of relatives in tragic circumstances, two sons handicapped (one very deeply), an epileptic daughter like him; and he faced them with strength and philosophy. He learned from life and he has attempted to react with a good will. Here are some quotes:

“Yes, there was something good that came out of having polio as a kid. Walking.” [Neil Young – Waging heavy peace](#)

"In my life I have had various health threats: polio, seizures, a brain aneurysm. None of these things has really changed me much, although it is hard to say for sure. These are events that are part of my life. They make me who I am. I am thankful for them. They are scary". In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

Young is hyperactive, but in 2011 he broke one foot and was forced to stopped his more physical activities. I am hypothesising that young demonstrates the hyperactivity of Ray 3 (see next Rayology Section). Immobility is a hard but very important challenge for Ray 3 types. But, as always, he accepted this situation and sat down to write his autobiography. It is still an activity but more sedentary, and moreover, it is a reflective activity that demands a deep analysis of the life. At the same time, he stopped using marijuana and alcohol. Throughout his life he was addicted to these substances. Now, he eats organic food. I see this search for purification on the physical plane as another clue that Young is approaching the First Initiation.

3. A Rayology Profile of Young.

1. Physical-etheric ray – Ray 3

When he plays electric guitar, his moves are not graceful at all. And his brain is surely Ray 3 because he is always thinking several things at the same time.

2. Emotional ray - Ray 6

In his music, especially electric music, he shows great energy. He manifests always the passion of youth. He is a living image of his name - "young". His long improvisations on electric guitar have a lot of lyricism "[Like a hurricane](#)" in *American Stars and Bars* (1977). When young students were killed in a school shooting in Ohio, on 4 May 1970, he composed a song to express his compassion and anger. It sounds like an Indian war song. We find this song titled "[Ohio](#)" in the album of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, *Four way street* (1970).

3. Mental ray – Ray 1

I hesitate between Rays 1 and 4. First I contemplate a Ray 4 mental because Young sees the world through the eyes of an artist. His vision of the world has been developed more from images and sensations rather than being built through logical reasoning (Ray 5). He also has an excellent humour. But, he also demonstrates Ray 1 traits such as "a capacity to endure no matter what the difficulties" and also "perseverance or endurance on the Way" (*Identify Rays Workbook*, Morya Federation, GQ 1). He has firm goals in life and is always a fighter, using good will. Other aspects he displays that make me think that his Mental Ray is Ray 1:

- A wild violence that is often present in his music. For instance, "I Shot My Baby" in the song titled "[Down by the river](#)" in the album *Everybody Knows This is Nowhere* (1969)
- He had written an entire album on war - *Living with War* (2006)
- He travelled from Winnipeg to LA in a hearse.
- He takes pleasure in "putting himself down", in destroying his image.



Here are synthetic quotes from Young, revealing an intuitive conception of God. He feels Deity deeply in nature and in the cosmos, and rejects religions. He said:

“Jesus didn’t go to church.” [What I've Learned: Neil Young](#)

From the song “Hey hey! My My!” in the album *Rust Never Sleeps* (1979), he sings:

“It is better to burn out than to fade away”

An extreme attitude that would suit a Ray 1 type.

“It's like having two eyes. You either look through one eye or you look through the other. Or you look through both of them. Sex is sex. Love is love. Love and sex is clear vision.” [What I've Learned: Neil Young](#).

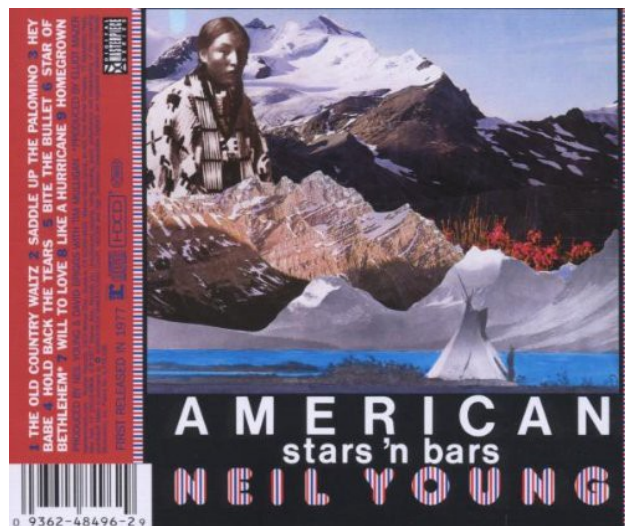
This last quote shows his 1st Ray synthesising mind.

4. Personality ray - Ray 4

Young has a Scorpio Sun and Ascendant, and the 4th Ray is associated with this sign. He demonstrates many of the qualities associated with the energy action of this ray.

Young is an artist and he expresses himself through music, an area related to the 4th Ray. He often says, all his songs are inspired by his muse. He doesn’t compose slowly at a table or on a piano. Each song is a gift of inspiration. The careers that we find in “Careers by the Rays” (Morya Federation – GQ 2), fit very well with Young, particularly entertainer and colourful artist. As an artist he is very spontaneous in his creation - spontaneity is particularly a 4th Ray trait. He wrote three of his greatest songs (words and music) the same day: “Cowgirl in the sand”, “Down by the river” and “Cinnamon girl” in the album *Everybody knows this is nowhere* (1969).

Young is often torn between two opposite poles: the aspiration of purity, beauty and his old demons that lead him to self destruction with addictions (marijuana and alcohol) as we can see with the recto and verso pocket of his album *American Stars'n bars* (1977). 4th Ray type swing from pole to pole.



But he a Ray 4 type learning balance and harmony. He said:

“As you go through life, you've got to see the valleys as well as the peaks.” [Neil Young](#)

He likes the extreme, the uncommon way and the paradox:

“I didn't want to do the obvious thing. It didn't feel right.” [Neil Young](#)

“There’s something peaceful about boxing. If you beat the hell out of a bag or go

against a competitor, you and your reflexes will be so at one that you won't have time to think about anything else. You have to be totally yourself to box. In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

When my doctor discovered the aneurism in my brain, he said I'd had it for about a hundred years. He told me I'd had it for such a long time that I shouldn't worry about it...but that we'd have to get rid of it immediately. Yeah, that's Zen medicine. He's very wise. In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

The 4th Ray demonstrates powerfully through Young.

5. Soul ray - Ray III

For me the difficulty is not to find the Ray but to choose if it is the ray of the Soul or the Ray of the personality. So this is how I proceed:

- If the person is on the Path and near the first initiation, I think that his Soul Ray is beginning to be visible.
- If the person is not on the Path, his Ray Soul is not apparent. The personality is more developed so the Ray of personality is easiest to find.

So for Young, I choose the Ray III for his Soul because he shows a lot of qualities of this Ray. First he is hyperactive, always with new projects in mind but also, and it is essential, projects that he realizes with application and accuracy like advanced Ray III. The average man on this Ray begins many things that he does not finish. However, Young has an interesting point of view on it that shows that he is an advanced Ray III: "A job is never truly finished. It just reaches a stage where it can be left on its own for a while." [Neil Young - Waging Heavy Peace: A Hippy Dream.](#)

- As an artist: he is the leader or co-leader of a lot of groups: the famous *Crazy Horse* formed in 1970 and still active today. He makes one record every year and is always "on the road", playing his music. He has made several films under the name of Bernard Shakey and has written more than 600 songs.

- As a philanthropist: he does benefit concerts for farmers called [Farm Aids](#); benefit concerts for the [Bridge school](#) that he founded with his wife Pegi to help handicapped children. He sings also for the benefit of the Native People.



- As an inventor, to help his two handicapped sons: Young created devices that allow them to play alone with electric trains like any other kids. He developed [special controllers](#) for the train set, allowing his son to control switching and power using a paddle system. The controls later formed the basis for a company called Liontech.
- As a business man: he invests his money in three main projects (at least). First, in a car that will pollute the air as little as possible - the [LincVolt](#). Second, a new standard of sound to listen to numeric music with a better sound than that of MP3 - the [Pono](#). Third, he became part-owner of Lionel Trains Inc, to support a firm facing bankruptcy.
- Young is also an environmental activist. He has a great interaction with his environment, not only emotionally (double Scorpio, Water element – the artist), but in a practical way with intelligence (the man of action). He is always evolving and adapting, is always changing, but always to be more "himself" or to manifest his different qualities.

Some quotes that fit well with the 3rd Soul Ray:

“People say, "Wow! How could you do that?" And you say, "How could I not do that?" In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

“People don't normally change when things are going well. But I want to see what's next and keep moving. That keeps things fresh.” [Neil Young](#)

“When people start asking you to do the same thing over and over again, that's when you know you're way too close to something that you don't want to be near.” [Neil Young](#)

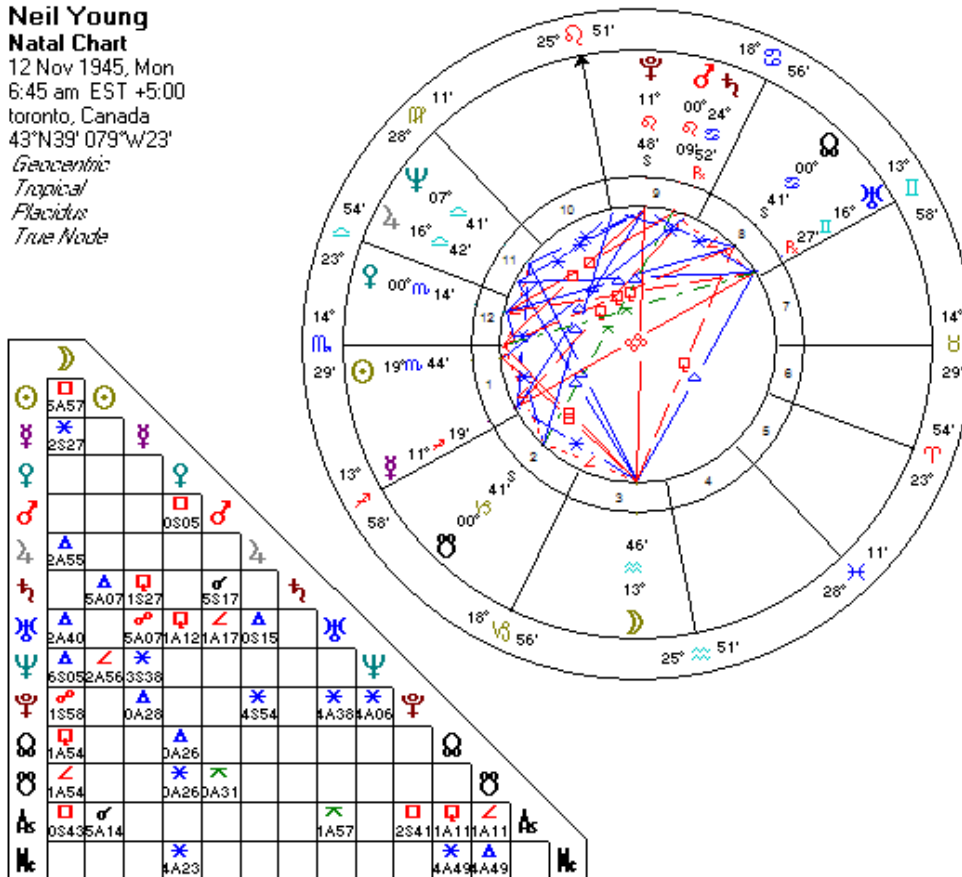
Young is living his relation with God not in religious way but through the nature and his music. He feels the vibration of the creation:

“Sometimes when I'm playing my guitar, I get to a point where it gets very cold and icy inside me. It's very refreshing. Every breath is like you're at the North Pole. Your head starts to freeze. Your inhalations are big -- more air than you ever thought there is starts pouring in. There's something magical about it. Sometimes when it happens, you wonder if you're gonna be okay. Can you handle it?” In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

“When I was six, I really didn't know what God was. But I did know about Sunday school. I was reading a lot about God, but I was bored. I couldn't wait to get out of Sunday school. God was secondary to the whole thing. But as time went by, I got more and more angry, to the point where I didn't like religion. Hate is a strong word. But I just kept getting angrier and angrier...until finally I wasn't angry anymore. I was just peaceful, because I thought: This is not fruitful for me. I rejected the whole thing and found peace in paganism. Jesus didn't go to church. I went way back before Jesus. Back to the forest, to the wheat fields, to the river, to the ocean. I go where the wind is. That's my church. In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

4. Psycho-Spiritual Transformational work, based on Astrology.

Neil Young
Natal Chart
 12 Nov 1945, Mon
 6:45 am EST +5:00
 Toronto, Canada
 43°N39' 079°W23'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



1. The Moon Sign: the “Prison of the Soul Pattern”

a. The prison pattern

The moon sign is Aquarius. The prison pattern is expressed by those sentences:

“All things to all men” and “Let desire in form be the ruler”.

b. How the Prison Pattern limited Young’s life

As many artists of his generation, he was dominated by lower desire in his youth. He was addicted to marijuana and alcohol? Here is the power of this limiting pattern. Also, as a creative artist, it was easy to get lost in the creative process and to think only of himself. He has had major life success, but the difficulties of life (two divorces, two handicapped children, epilepsy, death of friends), all this helped him to keep his feet on the ground. He has gradually been overcoming the limiting Moon pattern.

c. The psychological transformational work required to be free of the pattern

The man who has this pattern must endeavour to transform his consciousness from the “all things to all men” type personality into the inclusive, group consciousness of the disciple. (*Main Astrology Booklet – Morya Federation GQ 2*)

d. Did Young do this work?

I think he is doing this work. When I read his autobiography, it is clear that he shares what he has with his relatives and the human family. He desires the good of the whole.

2. The Sun Sign: Personality, and Ascendant: Soul purpose

It seems easier to study the personality and Soul purpose together, because Young has a Scorpio Ascendant (soul purpose) and a Scorpio Sun (personality). I think that it's a new indicator for first initiation. Of Scorpio, DK says:

"We come now to the consideration of a sign which is of paramount importance in the life of evolving man." ¹

"You have consequently in connection with the path of discipleship the following lines of "influential energy" ...

3. Scorpio—an aspect of the Fixed Cross, of peculiar and specialized potency upon the Path of Discipleship and preparing, with its tests and trials:

a. The process of re-orientation, whereby a man mounts the Fixed Cross and leaves the Mutable Cross.

b. The disciple for the first, second and third initiations. After the third initiation, its peculiar testing potency is no longer felt." ²

To have Scorpio as both Sun Sign and Ascendant Sign makes this a very important and special incarnation for Young. All the characteristics of the sign are increased tenfold. It can be catastrophic if the bad way is chosen but, in the opposite, it could be very benefic when the person chooses the good way. The two keynotes of the Scorpio are:

[For the younger soul] **"Let maya flourish and let deception rule".**

[The advanced soul] **"Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant".**

The second "warrior" way suits Young's life better. After many important problems and challenges in his life, he has been able to find his way and to be a worthy representative of the human family.

With a Scorpio Sun Sign, Young could have been very aggressive, looking for a fight at any moment and for no reason. But he has mastered the bad qualities of this energy, as we can see here when he says:

[One thing that has come out of having children with cerebral palsy is strength.]
"At first it made me very angry. I was almost looking for a fight. I was always looking for someone to criticize my son in my presence. I would envision different scenarios in which I would become violent reacting to people's reactions to my children – especially to my severely handicapped child. Eventually, he taught me that was not necessary. Just by being himself. By being a gif to us. He showed us how to have faith and belief and inner strength and to never give up. I look around and see people hurting themselves for no reason. Drinking too much. Taking drugs. Beating themselves up in some psychological way. That really bothers me, knowing that these people got everything they needed to succeed. All they have to do is believe in themselves and in the gifs they're wasting. And yet there are all these other people on the planet who have none of the gifs that are apparent. The gifs are all locked up inside, yet their spirits are so strong that they just keep on going. And I think: This person who has this spirit, why can't he have some of the outward gifts?

Maybe this is a little too thoughtful, but we're all just passengers in a way." In [What I've Learned : Neil Young](#)

¹ Esoteric Astrology, Alice Bailey, p193

² Esoteric Astrology, Alice Bailey, p 199

5. In Summary

Neil Young is an artist who has touched his generation and has inspired many. Though sixty-eight, his creativity is still strong and his interaction with the public continues. He is also known and appreciated for his numerous activities to help others and his kindness. As we have seen, his life has been marked by many difficulties, and he could have been destroyed by alcohol and drugs if he succumbed to the Scorpio keynote working on the personal level: "**Let maya flourish and let deception rule**". But, with the help of his wife Pegi, he has been able to sound the high keynote of Scorpio successfully: "**Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant**".

With a Ray 4 personality, strongly influenced by the water element (double Scorpio), and having the Moon in Aquarius; Young could have been a dreamer, not able to build anything. But with a strong mental (Ray 1) and a very active brain (Ray 3) - plus his incredible talent; he developed original musical and poetic creations of great variety that are acclaimed by his many fans. With his astral body on Ray 6, he has the energy and passion to engage in numerous projects with force.

Over the years Neil Young has brought his hyperactivity under control, allowing his Ray 3 Soul to manifest its energy in a controlled, masterful way. Young uses in a positive way the qualities of Ray 3, which are noted in the *Third purpose of deity* (Morya Federation – GQ 1):

Acute, Powerful Intellect
Great Mental Fertility and Creativity
Great Activity and Adaptability
Power to Manipulate
Good with Money, Philanthropic

Moreover, he has the will now to lead a life that is more pure and natural (no more drugs and alcohol, biologic food). He also now writes his autobiography to make a life review. Altogether, this is why I placed Neil Young on the Path, near the First Initiation.