



Hello Students,

I call this class “What’s on Your Radar?”

It begins with the seahorse, which is not a mollusk, but shares the ocean environment and has a very powerful contribution to make to this language. You will also see why the Pink Conch was so important on my journey as a shell reader. The class ends with another homework exercise. If you have time, it is worth viewing the videos following the homework, to shift your radar even more 😊.

Many Seashell Blessings!
Shell

INDEPENDENT STUDY: Module 2, Class 26

Please note: The pictures and comments in the transcript and recording below have been gathered over many years and where possible, I attribute them to their original source. If anyone connected with these photographs or comments would like them removed, please notify me and I will be happy to comply.

The recording for Class 26 is 22 minutes long.

Class 26: Shell #s 52,178,74

Throughout this course, I have suggested that we uncover our hidden beliefs in order to grant us the opportunity to change anything that is no longer serving us. Time and again, I’ve watched my clients become aware of limiting beliefs, but then what? Have you wondered how to go about transforming them?

When clients discover a limiting thought operating behind the scenes, they slowly discover stimulating new ways of thinking to change it. For example, if you believe nobody is honest, then it is possible that honest people have not been part of your experience thus far. Have you considered the possibility that you are meeting dishonest people precisely because you believe nobody is honest? The concept of an honest person is not on your radar. Each new dishonest interaction solidifies your belief, and it becomes a vicious cycle. We need to break this pattern.

The first and most critical step is awareness that you hold this belief. At some point, it must have served you or it would not be there. Discovering how it benefited you will allow you to evaluate if it still serves you at this stage of your life. Should you decide to change a limiting belief, you begin encountering examples that show this belief is false. Honest people may not be in your immediate environment, but you may slowly become aware honesty exists when you hear something on TV, or read a newspaper article, or even overhear someone’s conversation describing a stranger making an honest choice. Now the possibility of someone being honest is on your radar. Once this occurs, you can start believing honest people exist. Then you can build on the foundation that they are “out there” and begin to draw honest people into your own life.

Seahorse



Let me demonstrate this principle using a reading involving the **seahorse**: You can see its picture here, and it is #52 in *Ocean Oracle*. For its role in the birth process, the male seahorse is remarkable in the animal kingdom. Though the female lays the eggs, the male is equipped with a pouch into which the eggs are transferred. There, they remain and are nurtured until his contractions release the infant seahorses into the ocean. This is as close as a male of any species comes to giving birth. Due to this behavior, in *Ocean Oracle*, seahorse represents “*Being the ideal husband or father, or any nurturing male.*”

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/seahorse/basics.html> seahorse anatomy and basic facts

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seahorse> Great detail on courtship and pregnancy “*The fertilized eggs are then embedded in the (male’s) pouch wall and become surrounded by a spongy tissue.^[27] The male supplies the eggs with prolactin, the same hormone responsible for milk production in pregnant mammals. The pouch provides oxygen, as well as a controlled environment incubator. Though the egg yolk contributes nourishment to the developing embryo, the male sea horses contribute*

additional nutrients such as energy-rich lipids and also calcium to allow them to build their skeletal system, by secreting them into the brood pouch that are absorbed by the embryos. Further they also offer immunological protection, osmoregulation, gas exchange and waste transport.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qki0JF053wQ> Male Seahorse Giving Birth 3:57

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYf9MJFsgYg> video of seahorse mating dance 4:39 Beautiful photography by Daragh Owens who added this note:

Filmed at Seahorse Aquariums in Dublin. Shortly after putting away the camera the female started laying eggs into the males pouch - typical! Three types of seahorse appear in the video and if you look carefully you will see a baby seahorse floating through the water.

With *Ocean Oracle*, the image of the seahorse often brings warm smiles. Occasionally, the seahorse bothers someone. One client took this to the most extreme reaction I had ever seen. She scanned the fold out sheets and pointed to the seahorse image exclaiming, “I hate seahorses.” Her next comment left me stunned. “But they are like unicorns, they aren’t real.” Since seahorse represents the ideal nurturing male energy, the ideal husband or father, I wondered how she could ever have a healthy relationship with a male if she believed seahorses “aren’t real.” I was not surprised to discover that the men in her life, including her father and husband, were far from ideal. She was quite shocked when I informed her that seahorses do exist. When she inquired where they could be found, I told her that if she were not able to see them in their natural habitat in the ocean, not to despair. She could visit them in an aquarium. She then disclosed that she lived near an aquarium and visited it often...but she had never seen a seahorse. It occurred to me that if she thought they were mythological, she could be standing in front of their tank and not see them. This conversation was just what she needed to become aware of the fact that seahorses aren’t imaginary. She planned to visit the aquarium the next day, and I knew she was about to see her first live seahorse.

The beauty of this exchange is that by awakening to the idea that seahorses are real, she also opened to the concept of nurturing human males. This information enabled her to create from the new belief that men can be wonderful husbands and fathers. Such a simple recognition could completely transform her future.

Although I have yet to find other shell readers, I have encountered many shell speakers. Occasionally, someone is conscious of the fact that shells speak. More often, shell communication is subtle, occurring subconsciously. The shells are speaking volumes, but the person is unaware. The effect is like someone wearing earplugs while attending a symphony, or sitting in a classroom. He is positioned to receive beneficial information for his heart or mind, but oblivious to the fact that he is surrounded by it. If you have ever selected greeting cards with shells depicted on them, or are attracted to seashell décor, you may qualify as a member of this second category... we just need to shift your awareness, because the shells are speaking to you. When clients tell me about their favorite shell, or a shell they have at home, they are amazed to discover that its meaning relates to the very issue they find challenging.

To bear witness to this, let's travel back through time and visit the Wright Brothers' home. We are fortunate that in Michigan, at Henry Ford's Museum and village, Mr. Ford decided to preserve the homes and laboratories of the inventors of his day. With their permission, he literally uprooted these buildings and transplanted them in his village. Thomas Edison's home and laboratory are only yards away from the Wright Brothers' home and bike shop.

<https://www.thehenryford.org/explore/inside/edison-at-work/> Greenfield village and Ford museum- Thomas Edison

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU3lj4jTUWw> Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory at Greenfield Village

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/373441/> Henry Ford Museum-Wright brothers' home and cycle shop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kt1Wl41OHk> Inside the Wright Brothers' Home (does not show the fireplace mantle)

As you enter each edifice, a staff member recites a brief history of its former occupants and answers questions.



When I saw an arrangement of three large shells prominently displayed on the Wright Brothers' living room mantle, I asked "Are these their actual seashells?"

I was informed that, indeed, these were their genuine shells. Someone speculated that the Wright Brothers brought them back from Kitty Hawk.

Kitty Hawk is in North Carolina, and these shells are not native to that territory. However, they may have been gathered during their travels, or gifted to them. In any case, since we were standing in their actual uprooted home, these shells found their way into their hands, and were displayed on the Wright Brother's mantle.

The three shells were a Helmet Conch, Nigrite Murex, and Pink Conch. Let's examine these shells one at a time and then combine them for a message.

As you learned in class 25, Helmet Conch means *"an ally, a champion on your behalf."* Nigrite Murex is shell #178 in *Ocean Oracle*, and based on Intuition alone means, *"the courage to overcome negative emotions such as anger and depression."*

The Pink Conch is shell #74 and its meaning is, *"Listening to one's heart."* It is a member of the Interaction with Man category because people enjoy holding this shell to their ear convinced they are listening to the sound of the ocean. Have any of you tried this at some point in your life?

I am sorry to disillusion some of you, but actually, the shell amplifies the sound of blood circulating within the ear. Since the human heart pumps this blood, we are, in effect listening to our own hearts. Occasionally, this animal produces pink pearls, which can be considered as gems of wisdom coming from the heart.

This shell played a pivotal role in my development as a seashell reader. Despite my attempts to find another shell reader, I came up empty and remained the only shell reader I know. I don't have other readers to confer with regarding the nuances of working with a particular shell. Lacking this simple means of confirmation, I spent many years wrestling with the responsibility of sharing the language of seashells as I interpret it. The first time I felt this daunting responsibility was when I received a package in my Massachusetts mailbox postmarked from California. The contents contained a seashell with a letter asking, "What does this shell mean?" I admit the letter frightened me. Not because I didn't know the answer, but because I did. I thought to myself, "Who am I to say a particular shell means such and such? This is just my subjective take." Concerned, I asked the Universe to please let me know if I was on the right track when speaking on the shells' behalf.



My request was answered the following day in a most glorious way. While shopping with my nephew for a poster for his bedroom, he directed my attention to a poster of a little boy holding a shell to a little girl's ear.

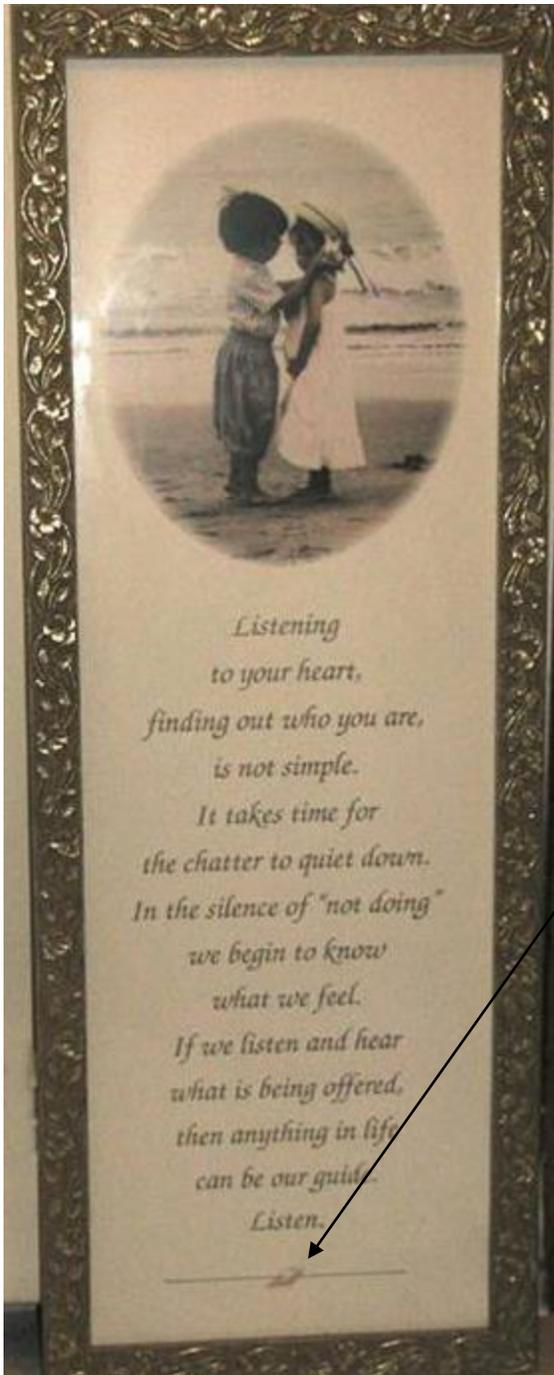
You can see this image here. As I walked over to examine the poster, I thought to myself, "Oh, he is holding the 'listen to your heart' shell." From that distance, my vision was inadequate to read the text below. When I was within range to read the poster, I glanced beneath the picture to read the words inscribed below and gasped. The first four words were "Listening to your heart..."

As I continued reading, the phrases resonated to my core. They were my philosophy of life. Overcome by a desire to read more of this person's work, I immediately interrupted my reading to see who wrote this. I allowed my eyes to drop to the bottom of the poster in search of a

signature. There, I found no name, not even the word “anonymous”. Instead, where the signature should be, there was just a picture of a tiny seashell. It was as if the shell were the author. I felt the Universe was answering my plea by confirming that the seashells share my philosophy. Through this poster, I felt they were granting me permission to be their ambassador.

This is the full inscription on my poster:

Listening to your heart, finding out who you are, is not simple. It takes time for the chatter to quiet down. In the silence of “not doing” we begin to know what we feel. If we listen and hear what is being offered, then anything in life can be our guide. Listen.



Here is the complete poster and notice the “signature” at the bottom.

I am fond of saying that Mother Nature has so much to teach us if we are willing to listen. The poster inscription starts with “*Listening to your heart*” and ends with “*anything in life can be your guide. Listen.*” The shells are only one of her guides assisting us in navigating the complexities of life as a human being. I am happy to share the way they speak to me, but if you find them communicating with you, please continue your personal conversation.

Now, let’s return to the Wright Brothers’ shells and see what message they offer. To refresh your memories, they had three shells whose meanings were: “*an ally, a champion on your behalf*”, “*the courage to overcome negative emotions such as anger and depression*” and “*listening to one’s heart*”.

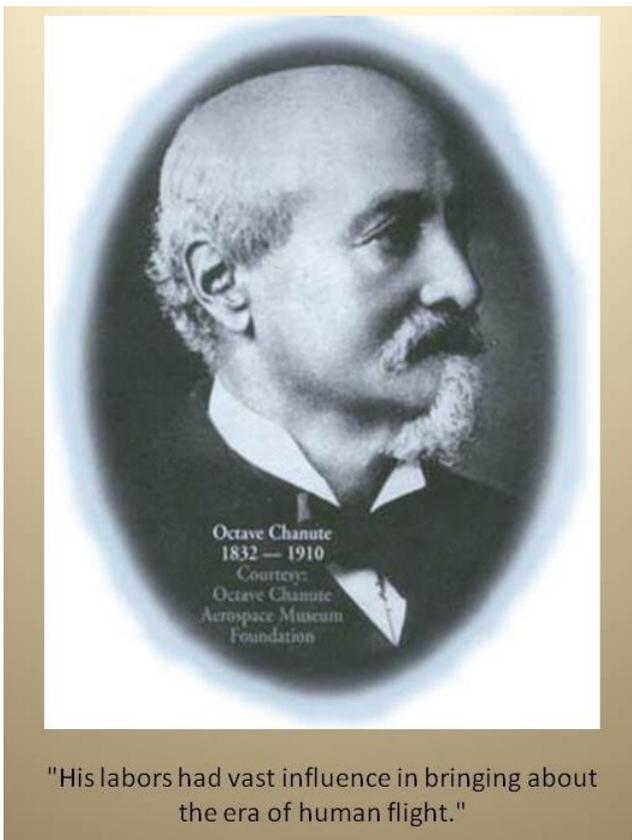
At first glance, these shells seem to be there to strengthen their fortitude and console the Wright Brothers in the face of tremendous opposition as they taught man to soar. The Helmet Conch would suggest that they had someone in their corner willing to encourage and support their efforts despite public ridicule.

Curious about the identity of who had been the “Helmet Conch” support in their life, I turned to the Internet and came across their relationship with Octave Chanute. Octave Chanute was a French-born American engineer who began studying aviation when he was in his fifties, and who was in his sixties when the energetic young Wright Brothers contacted him. Chanute thought that

solving the multifaceted problems of aviation required the shared contributions of many researchers. He freely shared information with pioneers of flight, and when the Wright Brothers began their experimentation, they had

all of Chanute's wisdom at their disposal. At a time when people interested in flight were considered crazy, he was their mentor, their friend, and supporter. He became their confidante as evidenced by "several hundred letters of correspondence touching on every phase and stage of aeronautical development." Here was their Helmet Conch!

Now I wondered about the other shells. After their famous flight of 1903, the Wright brothers had changed the world. Was there deeper meaning to the Nigrite Murex and Pink Conch? As I read further, I learned that "patent disputes erupted in 1905 between (the Wright Brothers) and other flyers over aeronautical technology. Chanute broke off his correspondence with them at that time because he disagreed with their desire to control the technology of flight. For him, technical information was a public commodity, and he believed that the ability to fly would usher in a new age of enlightenment that the Wrights were thwarting." This could be the reason for the Nigrite Murex. The dissolution of their relationship with Chanute must have caused feelings of depression or anger. Whatever the emotional wounds, I wondered now about the Pink Conch: "Listen to your heart."



As I continued reading, I discovered that the relationship was mending just before Chanute died in 1910. The brothers attended his funeral, and Wilbur Wright even delivered his eulogy. He said of Chanute, "His labors had vast influence in bringing about the era of human flight." No more appropriate epitaph could have been offered.

Perhaps those shells from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where Chanute had watched the Wright Brothers pursue their shared dream, were aiding them to heal in more ways than one.

By the way, In 2003, as part of its commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the [Wright Brothers' flight](#), [Aviation Week & Space Technology](#) named Chanute 38th on its list of the top 100 "most important, most interesting, and most influential people" in the first century of aerospace.

<http://www.lib.niu.edu/2001/iht810114.html> Site where I obtained most of the information on the relationship of Chanute and the Wright Brothers.

<http://www.wright-house.com/wright-brothers/inventors/Chanute.html> Octave Chanute nice photos of his attempts at designing airplanes.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octave_Chanute History of Chanute and Wright brothers

http://www.paperlessarchives.com/wright_brothers_papers.html If you have time, this is worth checking out... the correspondence between the Wrights and Chanute as well as their letters to other sources. *OCTAVE CHANUTE PAPERS 690 pages of Wright Brothers' letters to aviation pioneer and mentor Octave Chanute.*

HOMEWORK #8 for Class 26:

In this homework exercise, I want to try something a little different. Since we are limited to the shells we can use, I am going to drop you into the middle of a reading. Let's say that a client has selected shells about his job. Among them he is attracted to these two shells:

Likes: #4 Bittersweet Clam "*Concerned with efficiency and accomplishment, disliking waste*", and #6 Sunburst Carrier Shell, "*Preferring to be alone, avoiding attachments*". How do you think this client feels about teamwork and why?

Now let's say a different client has selected 3 shells. Among them, she likes #6 Sunburst Carrier Shell, "*Preferring to be alone, avoiding attachments*" and #4 Bittersweet Clam "*Concerned with efficiency and accomplishment, disliking waste*", but her shells center around the Heart Cackle "*Love, romance.*" Since she has the Heart Cackle, this is not work-related as was the case in the last reading. This is about her beliefs regarding relationships. That said, what do you think this message is about?

Remember that her valuing efficiency motivates her behavior, but she may not be aware of her hidden thoughts placing such a premium on efficiency. The shells serve to bring this to her attention to give her choice.

What if she adds #54 "*Willingness to change one's comfort zone*" to her reading? How would that change her message?

AN ADDED TREAT:

In Class 25, we witnessed evidence of a snail being rescued by two of its comrades. We considered the possibility that animals don't always behave based upon animal instinct. This rescue, and countless others by different animal species, can reflect the potential for love and compassion in all of us. Their plan to combine efforts to accomplish the rescue speaks to the intelligence of these snails.

I also told you about the article in my Sunday paper featuring the story of Thor dragging a baby from a burning home. The timing of that article seemed perfect considering the subject of our class that week.

Now I want to share with you what happened a few years ago shortly after teaching this class. I received something in my email that could not have been better timed. I would like you to view this video of an elephant. It lasts 8 minutes and is worth watching to the very end. See if you can guess what is happening. I think this is fitting for the subject of this lesson because this can shift your radar.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He7Ge7Sogrk> 8:28

A few more contributions that are definitely worth watching.... they will shift preconceptions regarding the intelligence and emotional capacities of animals. This list grows every time I teach this class and none of our radars will be the same.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBtFTF2ii7U> Animal odd couple 2:44

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrBqEslJgQg&NR=1> Amazing Hippo behavior 1:58