

BAA, BAA, GREEN SHEEP. HAVE YOU ANY NEWS?
MID-YEAR UPDATE ON THE YEAR OF THE WOOD SHEEP
July 2015 © Malvin Artley

Greetings Everyone!

Most of us are probably familiar with the saying, “Live for today, because you never know what is going to happen tomorrow.” Of course, there are many variations on the statement, but it is true enough. We could also say, “Live for today and prepare for tomorrow,” but there again, we don’t know what tomorrow will bring aside from probabilities. In the world of human interaction, ‘probability’ is never a given when it comes to spiritual progress. I don’t normally write mid-year letters, but given all that has happened in recent weeks and given the tone of this year as well, I thought it might be at least interesting to have a look at what is taking place in the vein of what these events might mean subjectively. Boy, was I in for a surprise! You might say I got three bags full of information and insight when I sat down to write this. The title of this letter is, of course, a play of words on the old English nursery rhyme dating from 1731 that most of us in English-speaking countries learned early in our lives. Suffice it to say, though, that the Year of the Wood Sheep has more than lived up to expectations¹, and we are only halfway through the year.

There have been several events of late—especially around and since the Cancer full moon—which should have engaged our attention, for they signal changes that have been instituted subjectively, but which are being met with either scant recognition or with stiff resistance in some quarters. The following is not all-inclusive but can be briefly outlined as follows:

- The most obvious one has been the Greek financial crisis, which has engaged the Western world for several weeks now. Initial agreement was reached on July 16. Referendum was July 5.
- The fly-by of Pluto by the *New Horizons* space probe. This has a profound occult significance, which we will examine directly. (July 14)
- The confirmation of the discovery of the pentaquark, a subatomic particle that will allow physicists to study the strong force in nature, as well as giving insights into how neutron stars form.² (13 July 2015)
- The stock market collapse in China, which has wiped three trillion (yes, that’s *trillion*) US dollars off the value of that market in the past few weeks. This has gone largely unreported in the West, but it could become a very big problem. (July 8/9)
- The nuclear accord with Iran. This happened the day the New Horizons probe flew past Pluto, interestingly enough. (July 14)
- Gay marriage is now a federally-protected institution in the US. (June 26)
- Moves for normalization of relations between the US and Cuba. The respective embassies will open for business on July 20. The date for the opening was set July 1 of this year.³
- The apparently uncoordinated terrorist events in Kuwait, Tunisia, France and Syria almost on the same day. Little was heard after that, though. (June 25/26)
- The removal of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag (widely known as the ‘Confederate flag’) from the South Carolina capitol building and petitioning for its removal in many other places, including other states and on car license plates, etc. South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union at the outbreak of the US Civil War. The current furor followed the shooting of nine black people in a church by a young white male. That flag has been seen for some time as an offensive and divisive symbol in the US, especially in the present century.

This has also run in parallel with heightened racial tensions in the US, shootings, burnings of historic black churches (though not all of these have been due to arson), etc. (July 10)

- More concerted moves to rescind the Citizens United initiative⁴ in the US that removed limits to campaign contributions by corporations in the US. Essentially, since that Supreme Court decision, corporations have been treated as individuals in the US and money has been characterized as free speech, especially related to politics. This has actually been ongoing, but there was a most interesting update on in on July 9, including figures on what has been spent on US campaigns in recent years.⁵
- Moves to overturn restrictive voting laws in certain states in the US, most notably in North Carolina. These laws are seen to disenfranchise minority voters. The presidential election is next year and the push is on.⁶ (July 8)
- Computer ‘glitches’ (if we believe that they are glitches) that have shut down the NYSE, airlines and phone servers for varying periods in the US in the past few days. This has gone along with the announcement of the theft of the personal data of some 21 million Americans, many of them government workers, by an unnamed foreign power. Fingers are being pointed. (July 8)⁷
- The massive turnouts to see the Pope in South America, coupled with his calls for reforms in the Church and the capitalist system. The Church (meaning the Catholic Church) appears to be in the process of being re-spiritualized. He was in South America from July 6–12.⁸
- A series of major earthquakes on the day after the last full moon.⁹

All of these events took place when Pluto came within the one-degree orb of its zodiacal opposition to the star Sirius, the latter of which is currently at 14 Can 17. We could address each of these points in kind, and I had started to, but then the exercise became quite long and I have since had to limit the effort to a few key points, although even then we can only give the briefest of overviews. However, these things will hopefully show that progress is being made in the world of human affairs, and that what might at first seem to be fulfillment of some greater prophecies—such as end-times, looming financial collapse, grabs at world domination, et al—are actually only simply indications in the astrology of the world at the moment that are only a part of evolving cyclic occurrences within nations and individuals. Most importantly, none of them indicate any immediate need to be alarmed at the state of the world at the moment, much as what we might hear to the contrary in the media. To preface remarks on these items, we need to have a look at the Pluto fly-by, because it sets a tone with all of these events, and in itself was actually a great occult event.

Many of us who have any interest at all in astronomy and science have been enthralled in recent days by the images beamed back to Earth by the little probe that spent just a few minutes whizzing past what was once a largely mysterious little planet at the outreaches of our known solar system—the planet Pluto (dwarf or not, it is still a planet). We have been so caught up in the images and the expectation of the event that we may have missed what was taking place at a deeper level of our collective consciousness, however. From mythology, Pluto is the Lord of Death, or the Underworld. As such, it has always been feared, partly because we have been taught to see death as an ending or parting of the ways rather than as a liberating influence, and largely because for the most part we do not know what lies on the other side of death. We have also been told many things about what awaits us on the other side of death—much of it terrifying—but which are largely untrue, unless we have been very, very naughty in life, to put it mildly. Pluto and Hades/hell are not the same thing, nor should we try to equate them. Yes, Pluto can be a stern taskmaster and experiences through it can seem like hell on earth at the time, but that is just the point—hell is on earth, or is in life in a physical body. Pluto is one of the worlds—the main one, in fact—that removes the hindrances to our enlightenment, but we seem to enjoy being blind much of the time. This being said, what has just taken place, subjectively, with this fly-by?

Pluto was once a world veiled in secrecy, largely because we had no means of seeing it, at least from Earth. The closest we had come to an image of Pluto prior to July of this year were blurry photos from the Hubble Space Telescope. We had to go beyond the bounds of our gravity to see this world clearly. We'll let the symbolism of that sink in as we go along. We had to reach out with a probe that we had created with our own minds in order to reveal the face of that world. Our earth-based existence was not enough: we had to be creative, and we had to act on our imagination. What we did was to exhibit our ability as human beings to overcome obstacles to understanding, and this through creative imagination, through known science and through the will to manifest our goal.

At the time of the fly-by, NASA had timed it so that Charon, Pluto's largest 'moon' (more on that one later) was opposite Pluto, i.e. furthest from the sun, so that the most possible sunlight light was shed upon Pluto during the fly-by. That, too, has its subjective corollaries. In effect, Pluto was at a full moon phase when New Horizons flew past. We know that full moons on our planet are the times when the greatest amount of light—objective and subjective—is cast upon our world. They are the times of revelation, of occult impact, when the evolutionary forces that act upon our world are at their strongest. This fly-by also took place when Pluto was opposite the great star Sirius, which is the alter-ago of our own Sun. In all, this event was revelatory, in more ways than one, and we can see that reflected in the events that took place around the time of the fly-by. What was revealed?—the obstacles to our human spiritual progress—not all, but some which are of immediate impact. The opposition is an astrological aspect that generates awareness because it brings conflicting points of view squarely into focus.

In addition, Pluto's being the Lord of the Underworld means it is also the custodian of mineral wealth, and with the world as it is these days, mineral wealth = money. Some major financial problems in the world were brought forward at the time of this fly-by, given the list above, and with Pluto in Capricorn this will continue to be the focus for the immediate years ahead. When did Pluto enter Capricorn?—in 2008, at the time of the Great Recession, of which we are still feeling the effects and dealing with the causes today. But, Pluto in Capricorn is also a signal of human emergence and achievement. It removes the final obstacles that will then permit us to enter into a new sort of reality. We will become more self-realized through this transit of Pluto through Capricorn, no longer so bound by crystallized materialistic mental constructs. If we could see it, this single event signals a new era in human exploration and achievement. It is a turning point, which will become evident as the years pass. This fly-by signals a new approach in the way we manage the Earth's mineral wealth and its other resources.

The other thing the fly-by signals is a breakdown of secrecy in the way we deal with each other. There will be greater and greater transparency in our dealings as the years pass. For the next 16 months New Horizons will relay data back to the earth and Pluto will stand increasingly revealed to us. We will probably see much in the way of earthly revelations in kind over the next sixteen months and onwards. We will come to a much better understanding of the way our solar system has evolved and at the same time a better understanding of ourselves. This is not some pipe dream. It is happening. All we need to do is to look around and this movement toward clarity and insight will reveal itself to us. It is one of the legacies left to us by the passing out of the fifth Ray¹⁰ of science and knowledge—fitting, given the fly-by—and it will eventuate in the lifting of the veil over the very meaning of life and death. In a way, we have begun to conquer the Lord of Death...

I don't see a world collapsing financially or turning into some sort of dystopic or anarchic state. We may likely see localized incidences of that, but we learned a lot from our recent experiences and from the last century's cataclysms. What I see instead is that we will gradually wake up to ourselves, take a look at our past conditioning, and then come forward into a more peaceful and

ordered world as a result. There will be suffering in the interim as we learn. This is true and inevitable. But, that suffering will be nothing like what we saw in the world in the last century. We have seen the face of the Lord of Death now, and his is a thing of beauty, not a monster to be feared. He works to remove the obscurations to our enlightenment, and that is hardly a bad thing. His fellow world, Charon, which I don't think is a moon,¹¹ ushers us across the abyss into a place of rest and repose when all is said and done. We have much to look forward to in the immediate decades ahead, and great work to do. The chief task before us in the next ten years especially is to change the way we see and treat wealth, starting with ourselves. This will take hold when we realize that wealth is a tool, and it depends not on the amount of possessions one has, but on the value we place upon life, our freedoms and especially upon our unity as a human family. Wealth should bring freedom to others and not simply to oneself. That, I think, is where the few who have amassed great material wealth within the larger world miss the point, and that is the attitude that needs to change. Pluto is bringing and signaling that change with its current transit through Capricorn—one way or the other. Wealth should bring lasting happiness to the world, not misery. Let us hold a point of focus for lasting happiness in this time of world need.

Blessings,
Malvin
21 July 2015

¹ <http://malvinartley.com/article12.htm>

² The strong force can be seen as the force which holds matter together, to state the concept in its simplest terms. It is the strongest force in nature, hence the name. For the CERN announcement, see: <http://lhcb-public.web.cern.ch/lhcb-public/Welcome.html#Penta>

³ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-cuba-prepare-to-re-establish-diplomatic-relations/2015/07/17/5304d4f6-2cc4-11e5-bd33-395c05608059_story.html

⁴ Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (2010)

⁵ <http://www.vox.com/2015/2/9/7992489/obama-citizens-united-constitutional-amendment>

⁶ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/07/10/north-carolina-voting-trial_n_7754876.html

⁷ <http://www.wired.com/2015/07/nyse-halts-trading/> ; <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/07/opm-hack/398120/>

⁸ <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/07/02/world/pope-francis-south-america-trip/>

⁹ <http://earthquake-report.com/2015/07/03/earthquakes-in-the-world-on-july-03-2015-m2-9-or-more/>

¹⁰ Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 512

¹¹ There is currently speculation that Pluto might be a binary dwarf system, rather than a primary and a moon, like our Earth. There are four other candidates for moons around Pluto, i.e, Pluto's other four moons—Nix, Styx, Hydra and Kerberos. For further info on the Pluto binary system, see: <http://www.spacetelescope.org/images/opo9014a/>